

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ First Sunday of Advent ~ 27 November 2022

Preparation for Worship:

"Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier'."

~Alfred Lord Tennyson

Prelude

People, Look East!

Kristen Langlois

Choral Introit

Veni Veni Emanuel

Call to Worship:

Leader: Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!

People: The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

Litany for Advent:

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with outstretched arm to save us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Prayer of Adoration:

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may keep alert as we watch for the glorious coming of Jesus Christ, our judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

Leader: On this first Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of hope.

"The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks..."

People: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

***Hymn 97**

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Call to Prayer

"A voice is calling in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Gathering Prayer

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

"The wilderness will rejoice and the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing." Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven. Amen.

***The Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

***The Peace**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Time with the Children

All children from preschool through second grade are invited to the front steps for the children's sermon.

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Pew Bible Page 630

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalter: Hymn 400

*I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say
Congregation to Sing Refrain Only*

Psalm 122

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

Pew Bible Page 27

Choral Response

Wait for the Lord

Sermon

"Visions"

Rev. Fred Leasure

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Welcome and Next Steps

Offerings and Gifts of Self

Anthem

The People Who Walked in Darkness

***Response 592: The Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Old Hundredth
Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God all creatures here below!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host! Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn 357** *The Days Are Surely Coming*

***Charge and Benediction**

Choral Extroit *Veni Veni Emanuel*

Postlude *Noel Toccata* Gordon Young
Feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to stay and listen.

If you have a prayer request, please write it on the white prayer request card located in your pew. You may place it in the offering plate located in the narthex to be printed next week. Prayer concerns will remain in the bulletin for three weeks unless otherwise requested.

Prayers are requested for:
Bower Hill Church Members

Jeff Carper, Gloria Child
Georgia Gallo, Nina Helbling
Nate Ivey, Linda James
Joan McAnulty, Dottie Post

Ongoing Prayers for Health Concerns
Other family, friends, loved ones, etc.

Doug Bish & Family
Family of Lisa Brumbelow
Jim Casey
William Casey
Family of Danielle Duncan
Matteo Guajardo
Betty Hicks
Brian Shanahan
The Peter Smith Family
The World
Marty Whayley