

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)  
Reign of Christ Sunday ~ 23 November 2025 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:  
"To be great is to be misunderstood."  
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Prelude**

*We Praise You, O God*

Dale Wood

**Choral Introit**

*May I Be Empty*

**Call to Worship:**

Leader: In Christ all things hold together,

**People: The head of the church and the Lord of all.**

**Litany for the Reign of Christ:**

Leader: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice!

**People: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

Leader: The Lord is robed in majesty and girded with strength.

**People: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

Leader: God has established the world, and God's realm will never be shaken.

**People: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

Leader: God will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**People: Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.**

**Prayer of Adoration**

Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior, you pour out your power for the powerless and your salvation for the wayward. Remember us in your new creation, so that we may live in peace with you in the presence of the Holy One, to whom be all honor and glory, through you, in the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

**\*Hymn 367**

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

*1 Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.  
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.*

*2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield,  
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.*

*3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;  
from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away;  
give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.*

*4 Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.  
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there forever purified, in thy presence to abide:  
come, with all thine angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home!*

**Call to Prayer**

Jesus declared to Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my followers would fight." In the peace of Christ, let us search our hearts for traces of Christ's Kingdom. Together, let us say:

**Prayer of Confession**

**Righteous God, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives. We confess that we have not bowed**

**before him, and are slow to acknowledge his reign of peace. We give allegiance to the powers of this world, and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim him as ruler of all that we are, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. [Silent prayers]**

**Words of Assurance**

“God has rescued us from the power of evil and claimed us for the realm of Jesus Christ, in whom we have redemption.” Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: In him we are forgiven. Amen.

**\*The Gloria: Hymn 583**

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**\*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.

*Children pre-K through 4th grade are invited to meet in the narthex for Sunday school.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

Sovereign God, let your Word rule in our hearts and your Spirit govern our lives until at last we see the fulfillment of your realm of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading**

Colossians 1:11-20

Lector: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymn 643**

*Now Thank We All Our God*

*1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*2 O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

*3 All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,  
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,  
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.*

**Second Scripture Reading**

Luke 23:33-43

**Anthem**

*Simple gifts, dale wood*

**Sermon**

**“Being Understood”**

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

**Response 601**

*Amazing Grace*

Bea Watterson, violin, Addie Ivey, clarinet

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

“Credo for Christians”

**I worship and adore God, source, essence, and aim of all things,  
Spirit that enlivens all beings.**

**I follow the way of Jesus, who found God in himself  
and shared a way for others to find God in themselves.**

**He was born through love,  
He lived for love,**

He suffered for love,  
He died for love,  
But love never dies.  
I submit myself to the leading of the love that is God,  
that I may be compassionate toward all beings,  
that I may live and serve in community with others,  
that I may ask for and offer forgiveness,  
that I may praise and enjoy God forever.  
Amen.

#### **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.

\*or Mother or Parent

#### **Welcome and Next Steps**

#### **Offering and Gifts of Self**

*Amazing Grace*  
Bea Watterson, violin, Addie Ivey, clarinet

#### **Response: 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! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.*

\*For a gender-neutral Doxology, use Hymn 607.

#### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

#### **\*Closing Hymn 37**

*Let All Things Now Living*

*1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, by guiding us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;  
till shadows have vanished and all fearfulness banished, as forward we travel from light into light.*

*2 By law God enforces: the stars in their courses, the sun in its orbit, obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine,  
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing, with glad adoration, a song let us raise,  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving; to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!*

#### **\*Charge and Benediction**

#### **\*Choral Response**

*Come Ye Thankful People Come*  
Bea Watterson, violin, Addie Ivey, clarinet

#### **Postlude**

*Recessional on "Lasst uns Erfreuen" Douglas Wagner*  
*Feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to remain and listen.*