

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ 4th Sunday of Easter ~ 26 April 2026

Preparation for Worship:

*"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life...and no one shall snatch them out of my hand."
~John 10:27-28*

Prelude

Prière à Notre Dame

Léon Boëllmann

Introit

May I Be Empty

Call to Worship:

Leader: Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep...

People: Whoever enters by me will be made whole, and will come and go freely.

Leader: I came so that they might have life,

People: And have it abundantly."

Prayer of Adoration:

Good Shepherd, you call us by name, and we know your voice. Open to us, so that we might live freely in your world, and so that we might know the abundant life that you give; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 187**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.

In your pleasant pastures feed us; for our use your fold prepare.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us: we are yours.

2 We are yours: in love befriend us; be the guardian of our way.

Keep your flock: from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.

*3 You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.*

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.

4 Early let us seek your favor; early let us do your will.

Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us; love us still.

Call to Prayer

Friends in as much as God is our Shepherd, let us not fear, but confess our sins to God and to each other, so that we might be restored and made whole. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, we confess to you and to one another that we have not always followed Christ's example.

When harm has been inflicted on us, we have caused harm in return. We have gone astray. Lead us back to your fold, and guard our souls in Christ's safe-keeping. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

The promise of our faith is that we need never be afraid. Our souls belong to God, our Shepherd and our Guide. 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.

All children from preschool through fourth grade are invited to meet their teachers in the narthex and go to their classes.

Prayer for Illumination

Loving Spirit, let us hear your voice in the Word that is read and proclaimed, and let us go from this place with a new understanding of who we are and what you call us to do, through Jesus Christ, the living Word. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

John 10:14-18

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalter: Hymn 802

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Remain seated*

Psalm 23

*1 The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.*

*2 Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.*

*3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.*

*4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.*

*5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!*

*6 And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.*

Second Scripture Reading

Exodus 17:1-7 (Common English Bible)

Anthem

Feed My Lambs

Natalie Sleeth

Sermon

"Dial 911 for God"

Brian Vertz, Esq., Seminary Student

Response 601

Amen

***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

Offerings and Gifts of Self

Offertory

***The Doxology: Hymn 606, 607** *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 version, use hymn 607.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn 541** *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

*1 God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.*

*2 God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings protecting hide you,
daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.*

*3 God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you: God be with you till we meet again.*

*4 God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you;
smite death's threatening wave before you: God be with you till we meet again.*

***Charge and Benediction**

Extroit

Postlude *Prelude in G Major* J.S. Bach
Feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to stay and listen