

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)  
Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ 18 December 2022 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:  
“*Love is the whole thing. We are only pieces.*”  
~Rumi

**Prelude** *Three Settings on Away in a Manger* Susan Carson

**Introit** *Silent Night*  
Michela Robbins, Bea Watterson, William Thomas, Helen Carter

**Call to Worship:**

Leader: Good Shepherd, hear our prayers and deliver your people.

**People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

Leader: Feed us with your mercy and grant us your peace.

**People: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

Leader: Mighty and merciful God, we rejoice and give thanks that you look upon us with favor and bless us with grace. Transform this weary world according to your promise—giving power to the weak, justice to the oppressed, and food to the hungry, so that all may sing your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Litany for Advent:**

O Emmanuel, our Sovereign and lawgiver, desire of the nations and Savior of all:  
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

God of all generations, though signs and seasons change, your promise is faithful and your word will never pass away. Give us courage and strength as we watch and wait for Jesus Christ, our redeemer, who is coming in glory to reign.

**Amen.**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles:**

Leader: On this fourth Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of love. The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child.

**People: She shall bear a son and name him Emmanuel: “God is with us.”**

**\*Hymn 118** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*

**Call to Prayer**

There is a voice crying out in the wilderness of sin. God is calling to us with love. Let us confess our sin, trusting in God’s saving grace.

**Prayer of Confession:**

**We confess, O God, that we are not prepared to welcome your way of righteousness, justice, and peace. You call us to repentance, but we refuse to change our ways. You call us to resist oppression, but we resign ourselves to evil. You call us to be reconciled, but we remain divided and afraid. Forgive us, God of grace. Pour out your Spirit in our lives so that we may be forgiven, set free, and made ready to meet you at the coming of your holy realm; through Jesus Christ our Lord. [Silent prayers]**

## Words of Assurance

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain made low, and the crooked made straight, and the rough made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. This is the good news we are waiting for: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## \*Response: Gloria

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

## \*The Peace

*Please practice **contact-free** passing of 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

*Instead of our regular children's sermon, the Cherub Choir  
will lead our worship in song.*

## Cherub Choir

*The Snow Lay on the Ground*

Venite Adoremus

## Prayer for Illumination

Speak to us this day, O Lord. Visit us with your wisdom, overshadow us with your Spirit, and let it be with us according to your Word: Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Pew Bible Page 637

## Hymn 129

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming  
Please remain seated.*

## Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Pew Bible Page 1

## Response

*Good King Wenceslas*

Tempus Adest Floridum

"Bower Hill Phil" Clarinet Trio: Abigail Boisvert, Autumn Grella, Addie Ivey

## Sermon

**"The Thing about Love"**

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

## 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

## Invitation to Offering

**Offertory Anthem**                      *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*  
“The Bower Hill Phil” String Ensemble ~ Violin: Michela Robbins, Lily Philson, Henry Carter,  
Leah Smith, Bea Watterson  
Cello: Helen Carter, William Thomas, Claira McElroy, Gus Watterson

**\*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! Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Closing Hymn 146**                      *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Extroit**                      *Angels We Have Heard on High*  
*Michela Robbins, Bea Watterson, Helen Carter, William Thomas*

**Postlude**                      *In Dulci Jubilo*                      JS Bach  
*Feel free to exit during the postlude, but please be mindful of those who wish to stay and listen.*  
  
*A special “thank you” to Ellena Gibbs, Bethany Gibbs, Rich Salvante, and Jason Robosky for their generous help with our young musicians!*

<b><i>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.</i></b>	
<p><b>Prayers are requested for:</b></p> <p><b><u>Bower Hill Church Members</u></b></p> <p>Jeff Carper, Gloria Child</p> <p>Georgia Gallo, Joan McAnulty,</p> <p>Dottie Post</p>	<p><b>Ongoing Prayers for Health Concerns</b></p> <p><b><u>Other family, friends, loved ones, etc.</u></b></p> <p>Doug Bish &amp; Family</p> <p>Family of Lisa Brumbelow</p> <p>Family of Danielle Duncan</p> <p>Matteo Guajardo</p> <p>Betty Hicks</p> <p>The Peter Smith Family</p> <p>Paul Taliant</p> <p>Those Grieving over the loss of a loved one</p> <p>Marty Whayley</p>