

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Easter Day ~ Resurrection of the Lord ~ 5 April 2026 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:
"Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark."
~Rabindranath Tagore

Prelude

Aria from Cantata No. 1
Movement III from Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major
"Where'er You Walk" from "Semele"

J.S. Bach
J.N. Hummel
G.F. Handel

Zachary Hommel, trumpet
Thanakarn Limtham, piano

Choral Introit

May I Be Empty

Call to Worship:

Leader: The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Prayer of Adoration

Glory to you, O God: you have won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life. Glory to you, O Christ: for us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the gate to everlasting life. Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: you lead us into the truth. Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

***Processional Hymn 232**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 *Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!*

who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2 *Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!*

who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3 *But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured. Alleluia!*

Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

4 *Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia!*

Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Litany for Easter

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us be glad and rejoice in it.

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: This is the good news that we have received, in which we stand,
and by which we are saved:

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: That Christ died for our sins, and was buried, and rose again on the third day.

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: He appeared to Peter, and to the twelve, and to many faithful witnesses.

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: At last he came to us, that we might come to believe
and proclaim this good news to the world.

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption,
and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Grant
us so to die daily to sin, that we may live with him in the joy of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Call to Prayer

"Come, let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift." Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust in your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant, given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints. 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

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

John 20:1-18

Lector: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn 245

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1 "Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia! All creation, join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

3 Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

4 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia!

Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia! Risen Christ, triumphant now. Alleluia!

Second Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:1-4

Anthem

This Joyful Eastertide

Anna Laura Page

Sermon

"Hidden with Christ in God"

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Response

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.

Offertory

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

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Sanctus *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord* Sung by all, remain seated
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

The People Commune

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administered both at the front of the church and in the pews. Approach the front by way of the center aisle and return to your seat by way of the side aisles. If you wish to commune with both the bread and the cup, please dip the bread carefully into the cup, being careful not to touch the juice. If you remain seated, a server will offer you communion in your pew. Everyone is welcome to participate or abstain. Gluten-free and casein-free bread is available on request.

Communion Music *Movements II & IV from Concerto in D for Clarino* Telemann

Zachary Hommel, trumpet
Thanakarn Limtham, piano

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

***Closing Hymn 611** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
2 All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.

*Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
3 Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude

"Trumpet Voluntary"
"Te Deum"

Henry Purcell
Marc Antoine Charpentier

Zachary Hommel, trumpet
Thanakarn Limtham, piano

Feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to remain and listen.