

*Growing together ...in Faith...Reason...Service...and Love*



*Let  
Our  
Light  
Shine*

**Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian U.S.A.)**

**08 February 2026 ~ Order of Worship  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)  
Order for Worship ~ Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ~ 8 February 2026

Preparation for Worship:

*“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.”*

~John Muir

**Prelude**

*Dear Lord, Creator, Good and Kind*

Harold DeCou

**Introit**

*May I Be Empty*

**Call to Worship:**

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

**People: the love of God,**

Leader: and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Jesus proclaims, “You are the light of the world.”

**People: Let our light shine! Amen.**

**Prayer of Adoration:**

God, our light and our salvation, Jesus named the light that lay inside each person, and he called them to embrace it. Give us courage to see and to share the light you place in us and in others, so that our lives may bear witness to the good news of the kingdom at hand, and our vocation may serve to draw people to your ways of peace and hope; through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**\*Hymn 14**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

**Call to Prayer**

Let us confess our sins before God, the source of freedom and forgiveness. Together let us say:

**Gathering Prayer**

**Mighty God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you in our thoughts and actions. We have been selfish in our desires and careless in our relationships. We have allowed fear to divide us from those who seem different, and let distrust separate us from others, who are your children. Shine your light into our hearts. Save us from our divisive ways. Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony. Amen.** [Silent prayers]

**Words of Assurance**

God offers forgiveness to those who turn to God in true repentance. Therefore, trust in God, who breaks the bonds of our oppression, and covers us in mercy. 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 of Illumination**

God of life, illumine our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed our eyes may see your kingdom, our ears may hear the call of Christ, and our hearts may know the joy of your salvation. Amen.

### **First Scripture Reading**

Matthew 5:13-20

Pew Bible Page 4

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

### **\*Hymn 666**

*O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

### **Second Scripture Reading**

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

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### **Anthem**

*This Little Light of Mine*

Mark Hayes

### **Sermon**

**“The Beauty of the Lord”**

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

### **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.

### **Offerings and Gifts of Self**

### **Offertory**

*O Beauty Ever Ancient*

**\*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**

## Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*About communion: In the Reformed tradition, communion is not just a symbolic act; it is a means of grace, bestowing comfort and guidance. Everyone is invited to take part, no matter what you believe or whether you are baptized. You are likewise free to abstain. Today communion is served at the front of the church. When the minister invites you forward, please approach the front by way of the center aisle, forming two lines. Take the bread and juice, then return to your seat by way of the side aisles. If you need to receive the sacrament in your pew, or if you simply prefer to receive it in the pew, remain in your seat, and someone will approach you with the bread and juice. The bread served in the pews is gluten and casein free.*

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: Hymn 565**

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

Remain seated

*Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of power, God of 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!*

**Communion Music**

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Art Thomas, baritone

**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 650**

*O Beauty Ever Ancient*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Extroit**

**Postlude**

*Allegro, Trio Sonata in Eb, Movement 1*

J.S. Bach

*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:**

Matt Arner, William Casey, Faye Cunningham, Joseph Duchene, Jennifer Dunn, Nancy Green

Amy Jones, Rebecca Kurtz, Alex Lorber, Joan McAnulty, Barb Oram,

Baby John Shabel and his family, Greg Stoupe, Barbara Tinnemeyer, Resa Walsh