

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ Second Sunday in Lent ~ 1 March 2026

Preparation for Worship:

"Where do you see God's quieter story unfolding beneath today's headlines?"
~Teri McDowell Ott

Prelude *Wondrous Love* Charles Callahan

Introit *May I Be Empty*

Call to Worship: Psalm 121

Leader: I will lift my eyes up to the hills. From where does my help come?

People: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: The Lord is your keeper, the shade at your right hand.

People: The Lord will keep us from all evil; the Lord will keep our life.

Prayer of Adoration

God our helper, our shade and protector: you give life to the dead and call into being things that are not. We trust in your power to make all things new, to keep us by sun and moon, along rocky paths and pathways unknown, until our going and coming brings us at last to your kingdom, promised in Christ. Amen.

***Hymn 630** *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Call to Prayer

We do not earn God's grace and favor. They come to us not as something owed, but as gifts freely given. Let us confess our sins before God, the source of freedom and forgiveness. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to place our trust in you, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow Christ's lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know that they are not what you require. We prefer old habits to risky change. Forgive us; let us be born anew into the life of Christ, in whose name we ask. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

"God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved in him." Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: In him we are forgiven. Amen.

***Response: Hymn 227** *Jesus, Remember Me*
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
(Sing two times.)

***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 all things, we come to your Word again and again, seeking understanding and the new life that it promises. Illumine our hearts to receive your wisdom; then let us go from here restored and ready to serve in your name. Amen.

First Scripture Reading John 3:1-17

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn 37** *Let All Things Now Living*

Second Scripture Reading Genesis 12:1-4a

Anthem

Go Down, Moses

Sermon

“All the Families of the Earth”

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

***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 in the pews. Please hold the bread until the minister gives you the signal, so that all may commune together. You may drink the cup whenever you wish. Gluten-and-casein-free bread is available upon request.

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

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 223**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

***Charge and Benediction**

Extroit

Postlude

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Paul Manz

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