

“Charter Sunday” ~ Bower Hill Church’s 75th Birthday

Preparation for Worship:
“*Sympathy is no substitute for action.*”
~David Livingstone

Prelude

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Ella Belardi, cello

Stan Pethel, arr

Introit

May I Be Empty

Welcome

Call to Worship:

Leader: God has told you, O mortal, what is right.

People: And what does the Lord require of us?

Leader: To do justice,

People: To love kindness,

Leader: And to walk humbly with your God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Adoration:

Mighty and merciful God, lover of justice and equity: you call us to support the weak and disadvantaged, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people. By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us advocates of your justice and instruments of your peace, so that people may be reconciled and creation may be healed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn 687**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Call to Prayer

The prophet Amos declares, “Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” And yet, our lives have not always borne the fruit of that command. Let us confess our shortcomings and sins before God. Together let us say:

Gathering Prayer

God of all mercy, your justice protects those who are vulnerable, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems those who are poor, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds those who are oppressed, yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution. Forgive our sins, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things and follow in your narrow way; through Jesus Christ. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

“The Lord supports that cause of the needy and gives justice to the humble.” If you turn to God in all humility, then 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.

Mission Speaker

First Baptist Church of Bridgeville

Dr. Gregory Jones

Prayer of Illumination

O God, these are nothing more than words until your Spirit speaks them into our lives, making them your living Word to us today. Bless our hearing, so that we may understand your call to us today; then give us the strength to live into it, through Jesus Christ, the living Word. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Micah 6:1-8

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Mission Speaker

South Hills Interfaith Movement

Jim Guffey

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

Anthem

A new commandment, Richard Hubbard

Sermon

“Blessed Are You”

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Response 601

Amen

Mission Speaker

Neighborhood Academy

Dr. Anthony Williams

***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”*

Mission Speaker

Casa San Jose

Sister Janice Vanderneck

Welcome and Next Steps

Minute for Mission

75th Anniversary Capital Campaign

Alan Hohlfelder

Offerings and Gifts of Self

Offertory

Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service

Stan pethel, arr

***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 686**

God of Our Life

***Charge and Benediction**

Leader: Beloved people of God: whatever is true, whatever is honorable,

People: Whatever is just, whatever is pure,

Leader: Whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,

People: Anything that is excellent and worthy of praise,

Leader: Keep on doing these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

People: Alleluia, amen.

Extroit

Postlude

Happy Birthday

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