

**2 January 2022 -- Order of Worship
Epiphany Sunday**

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Epiphany Sunday ~ 2 January 2022 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called *Opportunity*, and its first chapter is New Year's Day."

~Edith Pierce Lovejoy

Prelude

Priere a Notre Dame

Boellmann

Choral Introit

This Is the Day

Call to Worship:

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come,

People: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Leader: Come, see and be radiant.

People: Come, thrill and rejoice.

Prayer of Adoration

God of the sunrise and the evening star, you have revealed to us your love in Jesus Christ: a love so long-expected, yet so surprising in its unfolding. Gather us from near and far. Awaken us to your unexpected revelation, the justice of your slow-dawning kingdom, the mystery of your boundless invitation. Shine through us, that all people would be drawn to your light in us; through Jesus Christ, in whom we have access to you in boldness and confidence through faith to pray. Amen.

***Hymn 67**

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

Call to Prayer

God has claimed us as a chosen people, holy and beloved. Yet we have not lived according to God's way. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin:

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against you and against one another. You call us to clothe ourselves with compassion, but we surround ourselves with distraction, ignoring friends and neighbors in need. You call us to bear with one another patiently, but we fail to share our time and attention, straining the bonds of love and care. You call us to forgive as we have been forgiven, but we hold grudges and harbor complaints, allowing bitter anger to consume us. Pour out your mercy upon us, loving God, to wash us clean from sin and fill us with your peace. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, and let the grace of Christ fill us with gratitude for it is in Jesus that we pray. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

Let us now be thankful, singing psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Join the songs of the heavenly host, singing good news of great joy: 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.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, by the light of your Word and the breath of your Spirit, bring us good news of great joy for all—the good news of Jesus, Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Amen.

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 60:1-6 Pew Bible Page 690

***Hymn 66** *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12 Pew Bible Page 2

Sermon **“A New Star Rising”** Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Invitation to Offering

Offering and Choral Anthem *The Kings* Peter Cornelius
Art Thomas, baritone

***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

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.

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

*Hymn 63 *As with Gladness Those of Old*

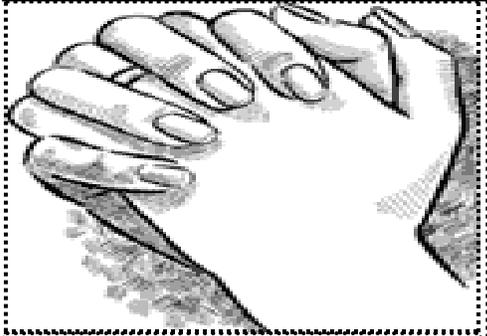
*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response *Sevenfold Amen*

Postlude *Herr Jesu Christ, Dich Zuch Uns Wend* JS Bach
Please feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to remain and listen.

** Please stand as you are able.*

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:

Bower Hill Church Members

- Joan Bridges, Jeff Carper
- Glenn Child, Dan Duffy
- Jean Dunfee, Georgia Gallo
- Nancy Green, Nina Helbling
- Bob Olinger, Barbara Oram
- Dottie Post. Donna Williams

Ongoing Prayers for Health Concerns

Other family, friends, loved ones, etc.

- Andrew Astarita**, cousin to Mike Riemer
- Barbi Baum**, sister to Kathy Philson, for breast cancer
- Tommie DeSantis**, friend of Rising and Hicks families
- Don and Mary Jane Farr**, brother and sister-in-law to Lynne Wohleber, having health concerns
- Shelley Farr**, neighbor to Steve and Deb Boisvert
- Bethany Fox**, 4 year-old cousin to Rachel McElroy
- Neal Harrison**, father-in-law to Andy Hicks
- Melody Kronwald**, relative to Lynne Wohleber's brother
- George Kurtz**, brother to Phyllis Madden
- Dave Murdoch**, father to Deb Carter
- Virginia Reinstadtler**, mother-in-law to Mike Riemer
- Laura Skinner**, friend of Kiri Rising
- Brian Shanahan**, "Hicks Family" friend
- Matt and Clare Williams and their families**, friends of Matthew Arner, due to recent deaths.