

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)  
Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ 3 May 2026 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:

*“One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know they are not alone.”*  
~Shannon L. Alder

**Prelude**

*Arabesque*

Louis Vieme

**Choral Introit**

*May I Be Empty*

**Call to Worship:**

Psalm 31

Leader: You indeed are my rock and my fortress, O God.

**People: I trust in you; My times are in your hand.**

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, who has shown steadfast love to me.

**People: Be strong and take courage, all you who wait on the Lord.**

**Prayer of Adoration**

Mighty God, in Christ you have shown us your way, revealed to us your truth, and offered us life everlasting. Let our eyes be fixed on him, that we may see your path more clearly, know your truth more fully, and receive your life more abundantly; through Christ, who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in eternal glory. Amen.

**\*Hymn 327**

*From All Who Dwell Below the Skies*

*From all that dwell below the skies*

*let the Creator's praise arise:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Let the Redeemer's name be sung*

*through every land, in every tongue.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*In every land begin the song;*

*to every land the strains belong:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*In cheerful sound all voices raise*

*and fill the world with joyful praise.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;*

*eternal truth attends thy word:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,*

*till suns shall rise and set no more.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Call to Prayer**

The Psalm declares, “The one who trusts in God will never be put to shame.” Confident of this promise, let us confess our sins to God and to each other. Together, let us say:

**Prayer of Confession**

**Mighty God, your word offers freedom and hope, but we confess that we have not obeyed it. We have harbored malice toward our enemies; we have been self-serving in our relationships; we have been**

**insincere in our commitments. Forgive our faults and change our hearts. Let us center ourselves in the hope and the peace that you give; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.** [Silent prayers]

### **Words of Assurance**

The Epistle declares, "Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received 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 for Illumination**

God, as we listen for your Word to us today, open our hearts to the working of your Spirit, call us out of darkness, and lead us into your marvelous light. Amen.

### **First Scripture Reading**

John 14:1-14

Lector: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **\*Hymn 769**

*For Everyone Born omit v4*

*For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead,*

*Refrain:*

*and God will delight when we are creators  
of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators  
of justice, justice and joy!*

*For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for woman and man, a system that's fair, [Refrain]*

*For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong, [Refrain]*

*For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free, [Refrain]*

### **Second Scripture Reading**

I Peter 2:2-10

Anthem *One Voice* Ruth Moody  
Sermon "But Now..." 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, take and eat the bread, then 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 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

##### 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 821**

*My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing?)*

*My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.*

*Refrain:*

*No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]*

*What though my joys and comforts die?  
I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Choral Response**

**Postlude**

*Preludium, Fugue, and Chaconne*

*Dietrich Buxtehude*

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