

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
World Communion Sunday ~ Peacemaking Sunday ~ 5 October 2025 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."

~Martin Luther

Prelude

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Paul Manz

Choral Introit

May I Be Empty

Call to Worship:

Leader: A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace

People: for those who make peace.

Leader: Seek peace and pursue it.

People: Let mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to all.

Prayer of Adoration

Living God: you are the light and the life of all peoples. In an anxious world, we turn our hearts and minds to you. At Jesus' birth, the angels proclaimed peace on earth and goodwill to all. Let us hear not only comfort in those words, but your call to do better; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 385**

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Call to Prayer

"Come to me," Jesus says, "all you who are burdened, and I will give you rest." Let us cast our cares and sins upon God, who cares for us. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession

O God, our hearts are weighed down by so many things. We carry burdens that were never meant to be ours. We worry about the future. We fret about the past. We feel anxiety for the state of our world. Our judgment is clouded by old commitments to this group or that. And yet, your call is to peace: in our lives and between people. Forgive us for dedicating our efforts to lesser things and doubting your word. Give us that peace which passes understanding, so that we might carry it into our relationships and into your world; through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

"I will give you peace, and you shall lie down in safety, and none shall make you afraid." Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven. Only go now, and walk in the ways of peace. 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.

Please greet your neighbors, saying, "Peace be with you."

Time with the Children

Children 4th grade and under are invited to the front steps for the children's sermon.

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God, in Christ you promise hope and restoration to a broken world. Touch these words and let them be your living word to us today, so that we might walk in the ways of peace. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Luke 17:5-10

Lector: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn 372

O for a World

Second Scripture Reading

Lamentations 1:1-6

Anthem

There's a Wideness In God's Mercy

Frederick Faber

Sermon

"How Lonely Sits the City"

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.

Offering

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.

Communion Music

The People Commune

Communion is received at the front of the church today. Gluten and casein-free bread is available upon request. When the minister gives the signal, please approach the front by way of the center aisle, take the bread and the cup, and return to your seat by way of the side aisles. You can also receive communion in your pew; simply remain seated and a server will bring it to you. Participating in the sacrament is a personal choice. Everyone is free to take part or to abstain.

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

Minute for Mission

***Closing Hymn 769**

For Everyone Born

(Omit verse 4)

***Charge and Benediction**

***Extroit 587**

Alleluia

Postlude

One Lord, One Faith, One Birth

Douglas Wagner

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