

Growing together ...in Faith...Reason...Service...and Love



*Let
Our
Light
Shine*

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian U.S.A.)

**3 May 2026 ~ Order of Worship
5th Sunday of Easter**

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

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

Pew Bible Page 108

Lector: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn 769

For Everyone Born
omit v4

Second Scripture Reading

I Peter 2:2-10

Pew Bible Page 232

Anthem

One Voice

Ruth Moody

Sermon

“But Now...”

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.**

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?)

***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.

***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:

William Casey, Katyana Diaz, Vicki Fischer, Nancy Green, Amy Jones, Jack Kelly, Alex Lorber
Joan McNulty, Dave McVay, Barb Oram, Nancy Starr, Resa Walsh, Owen Wagner