

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)  
Order for Worship ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ 22 March 2026

Preparation for Worship:  
“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning’s end.”  
~Lucius Annaeus Seneca (Stoic philosopher)

**Prelude**

*Reverie*

Louis Vierne

**Choral Introit**

*May I Be Empty*

**Call to Worship:**

Leader: O mortal, can these bones live?

**People: Only the Lord God knows.**

Leader: O people, hope in the Lord.

**People: With the Lord there is steadfast love  
and great power to redeem.**

**Prayer of Adoration**

Lord God, Great I AM, you are resurrection and life. As we worship you this day show us who we are: bearers of good news, messengers of resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*Hymn 49**

*The God of Abraham Praise*

**Call to Prayer**

“To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.” Trusting in the Spirit of God, let us confess our sin.

**Prayer of Confession**

**O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand? We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life. We seek peace through war and find security in weapons. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. And even so, you love us; there is forgiveness with you! Therefore we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin. Amen.** [Silent prayers]

**Words of Assurance**

O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life and the grace of God will be your righteousness. And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven. Amen.

**\*Response: Hymn 227**

*Jesus, Remember Me*

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*  
(Sing two times.)

**\*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**

O Lord, we wait for you, and in your Word we trust. By the power of your Spirit, set our hearts and minds on the source of life and peace: Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading**

John 11:17-45

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymn 250**

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

**Second Scripture Reading**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

**Anthem**

*Canticle of Hope*

Gary Hallquist

**Sermon**

**“In the Valley of the Dry Bones”**

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

**Sung 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.

**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**

**Offerings and Gifts of Self**

**Offertory**

**\*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 216**

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Carillon*

Louis Vierne

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