

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ Reformation Sunday ~ 25 October 2026

Preparation for Worship:

*"Let the great world spin forever down the ringing grooves of change."
~Alfred Lord Tennyson*

Prelude

Reverie

Vierne

During the prelude, we encourage you to quiet your mind and prepare your heart for worship.

Introit 413

Come into God's Presence

During the prelude, we encourage you to quiet your mind and prepare your heart for worship.

Call to Worship:

Leader: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: In you, we come home—to rest, to discover, to love and be loved. We dwell in you.

Leader: Before the mountains were brought forth, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

People: In you, we are home—we dream, we flourish, we fade, we rejoice. We dwell in you.

Prayer of Adoration:

Loving God, not only do you welcome us, you receive us to yourself. Give us courage to be so open to others, sharing your love and our lives with them; 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 275**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 *A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.*

Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.

His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate, on earth is not his equal.

2 *Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,*

were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.

Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same, and he must win the battle.

3 *And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,*

we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.

His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure. One little word shall fell him.

4 *That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.*

The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.

The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

Call to Prayer

Our spirits are like the new grass. At dawn they spring up fresh, but in time they grow old and wither. Let us confess our changefulness and frailty to God. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we confess: We do not live as those worthy to be messengers of the good news of your grace; we pay little heed to the gospel's call upon our lives. Our worship is often hollow, our prayers are frequently rote, our service to others is not always heartfelt. Apathy besets us even in tasks that ought to bring us joy. Renew in us an awareness of our life in you, and give us strength to live it faithfully. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

In Christ we are accepted just as we are. In Christ we are called, renewed, and transformed. 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.

Prayer for Illumination

O God, in ages past, you called the faithful to reform the church by reading and hearing the Scriptures in new ways. And now, five-hundred years later, we too need new ways of hearing your voice, so that we might change and grow into all that you call us to be in our age. Give us ears to hear what you say to us today in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Thought to Carry

We take this time to speak directly and briefly to our children and youth, leaving them with a thought to discuss with their families. Children and youth may head to their Sunday School classrooms during the hymn that follows.

Psalter: Hymn 687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Psalms 90

1 *Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,*

our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

2 *Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;*

sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

3 *Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,*

from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

4 *A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,*

short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

5 *Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;*

they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

6 *Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,*

be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Remain seated for the singing of the Psalms.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 12: 28-34

Anthem

Lean on Me

Sermon

"Not Far from the Kingdom"

Rev. Jeff Tindall

Response 571

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

Minute for Stewardship *Cheerful Giving Stewardship Drive* Sarah Neusius

Minute for Mission *Hearts United with Haiti* Crystal Funk

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 624** *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*
1 I greet thee, who my sure Redeemer art, my only trust and Savior of my heart,
who pain didst undergo for my poor sake; I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.
2 Thou art the King of mercy and of grace, reigning omnipotent in every place:
so come, O King, and our whole being sway; shine on us with the light of thy pure day.
3 Thou art the life, by which alone we live, and all our substance and our strength receive;
sustain us by thy faith and by thy power, and give us strength in every trying hour.
4 Thou hast the true and perfect gentleness; no harshness hast thou and no bitterness.
O grant to us the grace we find in thee, that we may dwell in perfect unity.
5 Our hope is in no other save in thee; our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure, that in thy strength we evermore endure.

*Charge and Benediction

Extroit 542 *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

Postlude *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor* J.S. Bach
Feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to stay and listen