

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



Let
Our
Light
Shine

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

**13 September 2026 -- Order of Worship
Kickoff Sunday**

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Order for Worship ~ Kickoff Sunday ~ 13 September 2026

Preparation for Worship:

“Opportunities are usually disguised as hard work, so most people don’t recognize them.”

~Anne Landers

Prelude

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Paul Manz

Introit

Come into God’s Presence

Call to Worship:

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

People: the love of God,

Leader: and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Jesus proclaims, “You are the light of the world.”

People: Let our light shine! Amen.

Prayer of Adoration:

God, our light and our salvation, Jesus named the light that lay inside each person, and he called them to embrace it. Give us courage to see and to share the light you place in us and in others, so that our lives may bear witness to the good news of the kingdom at hand, and our vocation may serve to draw people to your ways of peace and hope; through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Hymn 619**

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

Call to Prayer

Let us confess our sins before God, the source of freedom and forgiveness. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession

Mighty God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you in our thoughts and actions. We have been selfish in our desires and careless in our relationships. We have allowed fear to divide us from those who seem different, and let distrust separate us from others, who are your children. Shine your light into our hearts. Save us from our divisive ways. Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ, who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

God offers forgiveness to those who turn to God in true repentance. Therefore, trust in God, who breaks the bonds of our oppression, and covers us in 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.

Prayer of Illumination

God of life, illumine our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed our eyes may see your kingdom, our ears may hear the call of Christ, and our hearts may know the joy of your salvation. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Pew Bible Page 20

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Thought to Carry

This is a new feature in our weekly worship. Pastor Snyder takes this time to speak directly and briefly to our children and youth, leaving them with a thought to discuss with their families. On this Kickoff Sunday, we also wish to award 3rd Grade Bibles to Aiden Benedict, Emmett McElroy, and Samuel Webler.

***Hymn 81**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Second Scripture Reading

Exodus 14:19-25

Pew Bible Page 61

Anthem

Chorister's Prayer

Dishman

Sermon

"The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea"

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.

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**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

In the Reformed tradition, communion is not just a symbolic act; it is a “means of grace,” bestowing comfort and guidance. Everyone is invited to take part, no matter what you believe or whether you are baptized. You are likewise free to abstain. Today, communion is served in the pews. Hold the bread until the minister gives you the signal to eat. You may drink the cup whenever you wish. Gluten and casein free options are available upon request.

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: Hymn 565

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Remain seated

*Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of power, God of 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

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 65**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

***Charge and Benediction**

Extroit

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Postlude

Prelude in G Major

J.S. Bach

Feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to stay 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:

Shawn Burke, The family of Howard Davidson, Nancy Green, Nick Helmer, Jamie, The Family of Dorothy Kalal
Dennis Krick, Amy and Fred Leasure, The Family of Joan McNulty, Cathy Morgan, Barb Oram, Brody Polk
The Family of Larry Pringle, Kathy Repko, Resa Walsh, Adam Vance