

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)  
14th Sunday after Pentecost ~ 14 September 2025 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:  
"A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."  
~Dwight D. Eisenhower

**Prelude**

*Morning Song*

David Schelat

**Choral Introit**

*May I Be Empty*

**Call to Worship:**

Leader: Rejoice with me, people of God.

**People: God has gathered us in from the wilderness.**

Leader: Rejoice with me, people of God.

**People: God has swept away the darkness of the night.**

Leader: Rejoice with me, people of God.

**People: Today there is joy in the presence of angels.**

**Prayer of Adoration**

Merciful God, in Christ we see the lengths and the depths to which you go to make us whole. Give us joy as we follow in the path of Jesus, so that we may live as he lived and love as he loved; 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 12**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

**Call to Prayer**

"The grace of our Lord overflows for us through the faith and the love that are ours in Christ Jesus." With confidence in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Creator of the universe, we imagine that we are in familiar territory, that we know what to expect from this hour, that we will leave much the way that we came. Do not abandon us to our foolishness. In judgment, illumine our darkness. In mercy, bear us to yourself—until we recognize your presence wherever evil is confronted, truth is spoken, and life is restored. Amen.** [Silent prayers]

**Words of Assurance**

"But this we call to mind, and therefore we have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning." 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.

*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**

Come, Holy Spirit, speak to us in our own language about those things that most truly matter. Give us power to proclaim the coming of a new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading**

I Timothy 1:12-17

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

\*Hymn 649

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-10

Anthem

*God, Be in My Head*

David Fawcett

Sermon

**“Ninety-Nine Mad Sheep”**

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

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.

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

*The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is administered in the pews today. All are welcome to participate or abstain.  
Gluten-and-casein-free bread is available, but held apart. If you need gluten-and-casein-free bread, raise your hand  
slightly when the server passes the plate to your pew.*

**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**

Medical Debt Relief Campaign

Mission Committee

**\*Closing Hymn 802**

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Extroit**

*Alleluia*

**Postlude**

*Fugue in C Major*

Dietrich Buxtehude

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