

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)  
15th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Jean Barker Celebration Sunday ~ 21 September 2025 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:

*"The world needs strong women. Women who will lift and build others, who will love and be loved, women who live bravely, both tender and fierce, women of indomitable will."*

~Amy Tenney.

**Prelude**

*Prayer in Bb Major*

Alex Guilmant

**Choral Introit**

**Call to Worship:**

Leader: Who is like the Lord our God, high above the heavens in glory?

**People: Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

Leader: Who raises up the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ashes?

**People: Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

Leader: Who makes light shine in darkness, gives joy in sorrow, and brings life out of death?

**People: Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

**Prayer of Adoration**

Mighty God, to whom all honor belongs, you have gathered people from every tribe and language to praise your name eternally. Let our voices be united to that deathless song, which forever rises from heaven and earth; 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 263**

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

**Call to Prayer**

God is present to guide our journey and eager to forgive us when we go astray; therefore, in humility and faith, let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, we confess that we have strayed from your paths of right relationship and peace, and we have dishonored you, ourselves, and your creation. Surrounded by the beauty of your world, and the daily evidence of your care, still we remain focused on ourselves and our desires. Free our hearts to change. Forgive us, as we learn to forgive others, and guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.** [Silent prayers]

**Words of Assurance**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. 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.

**Time with the Children**

*Children 4th grade and under are invited to the front steps for the children's sermon.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

Shepherd of Souls, you call us to an abundant feast at the table of your word; open our hearts to feed on your goodness, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we might dwell evermore deeply in you. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading**

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Lector: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*Hymn 462**

*I Love to Tell the Story*

**Second Scripture Reading**

Luke 16:1-13

**Anthem**

*Be Not Afraid*

Bob Dufford, Douglas Wagner

**Sermon**

**“Faithful in Little, Faithful in Much”**

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

**Response**

**\*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.**

**Remembering Jean Barker**

Ellen Bruitsch

**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**

**Offering and Gifts of Self**

**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**

**\*Closing Hymn 324**

*For All The Faithful Women*

*1 For all the faithful women who served in days of old,*

*To you shall thanks be given; To all, their story told.*

*They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave,*

*To you their live bore witness, Proclaimed your power to save.*

*2 We praise your name for Miriam, Who sang triumphantly  
while Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;  
For Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,  
Who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death.*

*3 We sing of busy Martha, Who toiled with pot and pan  
While Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.  
We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb  
and found her Lord arisen, Dispelling doubt and gloom.*

*4 Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, Who served the sick and poor.  
Her hands were cups of kindness, Her heart an open door.  
O God, for saints and servants, Our fervent prayer we raise,  
that, faithful in our service, our lives may sing your praise.*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Choral Response**

**Postlude**

*Menuet*

Leon Boellmann

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