

A CAROL-SING FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMASTIDE

Welcome to Bower Hill Church. Because of expected low attendance on this day, we have planned a “carol-sing” as an opportunity to revisit all your favorite spiritual songs of the season. This will be a brief service of carols sung by request. Thumb through the hymnal and call out the number of the song you want everyone to sing. For Christmas carols, look between pages 108 and 156. Did you miss one of your favorite Advent carols? Those are found between pages 82 and 107! Please remain seated for all hymns, and sing all the verses unless otherwise stated. There is no offering today. Please bring your gifts next week or give online.

Call to Worship:

Leader: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

People: Peace to every person on earth.

Leader: Our redeemer has come.

People: The Word became flesh and walked among us, full of grace and truth.

Prayer of Adoration

All-vulnerable God, before whom kings come to surrender their kingdoms, release us from the fiefdoms that have claimed our lives. Let us not miss your salvation, which comes to us in what we disregard. Clear our eyes, as you did for the shepherds, so that we may see your glory that ever surrounds us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMNS (Two or Three)

Call to Prayer

Leader: God has claimed us as a chosen people, holy and beloved. Yet we have not lived according to God's way.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin:

People: Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against you and against one another. You call us to clothe ourselves with compassion, but we surround ourselves with distraction, ignoring friends and neighbors in need. You call us to bear with one another patiently, but we fail to share our time and attention, straining the bonds of love and care. You call us to forgive as we have been forgiven, but we hold grudges and harbor complaints, allowing bitter anger to consume us. Pour out your mercy upon us, loving God, to wash us clean from sin and fill us with your peace. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, and let the grace of Christ fill us with gratitude for it is in Jesus that we pray. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

Leader: Let us now be thankful, singing psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs to God. Join the songs of the heavenly host, singing good news of great joy: in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

HYMNS (Five or Six)

AN INSPIRATIONAL READING:

The Comfort of Crows, by Margaret Renkl

Leader: Let us silence our hearts and pray quietly, reflecting on the meanings, memories, and hopes of this Christmas Season. After a few moments, we will say the Lord's Prayer together...

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.

HYMNS (Five, Six, or as many as need be!)

CLOSING BENEDICTION:

Leader: Hope does not disappoint us.

People: Peace to all people on earth.

Leader: Joy to the world.

People: Love one another, for God is love, and everyone who loves abides in God.