

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ 3rd Sunday of Easter ~ Confirmation Sunday ~ 19 April 2026

Preparation for Worship:

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."
~Franklin D. Roosevelt

Prelude

Morning Song

David Schelat

Introit

May I Be Empty

Call to Worship:

Leader: How should we come into God's presence?

People: God has shown us what is right.

Leader: And what does the Lord require of us?

People: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Prayer of Adoration:

Eternal God: all people are yours and all the seasons of our lives. Thank you for the old, whose experience and maturity keep us anchored. Thank you, too, for the young, whose sincerity and passion call us to seek you in new ways. Let this hour of worship bring us closer to you and to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 488**

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

1 *"I was there to hear your borne cry; I'll be there when you are old.*

I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well;

in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."

2 *"When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on.*

You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,

I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."

3 *"In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,*

I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,

I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise."

4 *I was there to hear your borne cry; I'll be there when you are old.*

I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."

Call to Prayer

Our calling is to justice, compassion, and humility. But our daily tasks and worries cause us to forget that calling and to chase after other things. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession

See into our hearts today, O God. Sometimes we do our best, but often we do not. We waste rec time, energy, and skills on selfish pursuits, while ignoring those in need. We worry about little things, like appearances and gain, while overlooking big things, like compassion and gratitude. We forget that we are loved, and so neglect to love each other. Help us to do better. Keep us mindful of things that matter, and let us live in your grace. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

"Those who make peace sow the seeds of justice by their peaceful acts." 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.

All children from preschool through fourth grade are invited to meet their teachers in the narthex and go to their classes.

Prayer of Illumination

Bless the words we read today. Let them become your Word for us, guiding us into the ways of hospitality, wisdom, justice, compassion, unity, humility, gratitude and grace. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Luke 24:13-35

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word..

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn 69**

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN: *Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.*

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my Word to them. Whom shall I send? REFRAIN

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? REFRAIN

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 24:28-35

Anthem

With Songs of Rejoicing

Hal Hopson

Sermon

"With Eyes Wide Opened"

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Response 601

Amen

Service of Confirmation

*Abigail Boisvert, Barrett Bruce, Teagan Bruce, Elise Gibbs, Autumn Grella, Addie Ivey,
Calvin Kocher, Lilly Philson, Drake Robbins, Leah Smith*

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

I Believe in God the Father* Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

and in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin, Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell;

the third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,

from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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

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 547** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

- 1 *"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."*
- 2 *"Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."*
- 3 *"Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love, and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."*

***Charge and Benediction**

Extroit

Postlude *Fugue in C Major* Dietrich Buxtehude
Feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to stay and listen