

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

BOWER HILL

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



**23 January 2022 -- Order of Worship
Third Sunday after Epiphany**

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Third Sunday after Epiphany ~ 23 January 2022 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:
“*People are trapped in history and history in them.*”
~James Baldwin

Prelude *Reverie* Louis Vierne

Choral Introit *This Is the Day*

Call to Worship:

Leader: This day is holy to the Lord our God.

People: Let us gather with gratitude to hear God's Word.

Leader: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

People: We will celebrate the year of God's favor.

Prayer of Adoration

God of all generations, you who have gathered us together through all the ages: Tell us once again the stories of your life, law, and love, so that we may remember who we are as the body of Christ in our time.

Amen.

***Hymn 292**

All Beautiful, the March of Days

Call to Prayer

The God of every blessing looks upon us with grace and favor, even when we are captive to the curse of sin. Trusting in our gracious God, let us renounce all that is evil and seek the mercy of the Lord. Together, let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

God of steadfast love, we confess that we do not live according to your way. You bless the poor with the promise of your realm, but we seek earthly treasure. You bless the hungry with the promise of fullness of life, but we are seldom satisfied with enough. You bless the brokenhearted with the promise of laughter, but we praise positivity and have little time for the mournful. You bless the despised with the promise of reward, but we seek approval and distrust those who are different. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us to seek your blessing and to be a blessing to all; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

Receive the blessing of the living God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: In him we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

***The Gloria Patri** *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. Amen.*

***The Peace** *Please practice **contact-free** passing of 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

Prayer for Illumination

Spirit of the Lord, help us to proclaim good news to the poor, release to the captive, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed. Let this be the time of your favor. Let your Word be fulfilled today; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

First Scripture Reading Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Pew Bible Page 436

The Psalter: Hymn 166 *The Heavens above Declare God's Praise* **Psalm 19**
Please remain seated for the singing of the Psalms.

Second Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Pew Bible Page 174

Sermon **"Unity not Uniformity"** Elder Phillip Neusius

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.**

Minute for Mission *Driving PA Forward* Linda James for the IRU Team

Invitation to Offering

Offering and Choral Anthem *A Gaelic Blessing* John Rutter

***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! Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn 420**

God of Grace and God of Glory

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Sevenfold Amen

Postlude

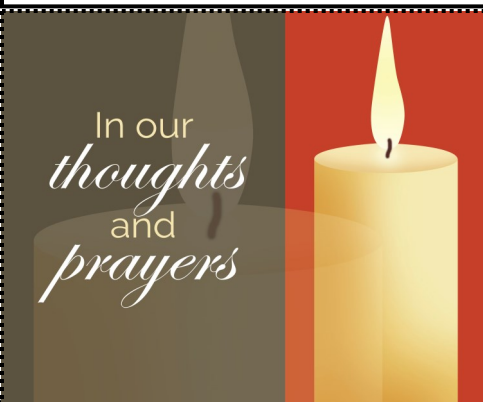
Allegro, 1st Trio Sonata in Eb

J.S. Bach

Feel free to exit during the postlude, but please be mindful of those who wish to stay and listen.

** Please stand as you are able.*

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:
Bower Hill Church Members

Joan Bridges, Jeff Carper
Dan Duffy, Jean Dunfee
Georgia Gallo, Nancy Green
Barbara Oram, Dottie Post,
Donna Williams

Ongoing Prayers for Health Concerns

Other family, friends, loved ones, etc.

Andrew Astarita, cousin to Mike Riemer
Barbi Baum, sister to Kathy Philson, for breast cancer
Tommie DeSantis, friend of Rising and Hicks families
Don and Mary Jane Farr, brother and sister-in-law to
Lynne Wohleber, having health concerns
Shelley Farr, neighbor to Steve and Deb Boisvert
Bethany Fox, 4 year-old cousin to Rachel McElroy
Neal Harrison, father-in-law to Andy Hicks
The Kniola Family, friends of the Child Family,
on the death of their 16 year old son
Melody Kronwald, relative to Lynne Wohleber's brother
George Kurtz, brother to Phyllis Madden
Dave Murdoch, father to Deb Carter
The family of Virginia Reinstadtler
Laura Skinner, friend of Kiri Rising
Brian Shanahan, "Hicks Family" friend
Matt and Clare Williams and their families,
friends of Matthew Arner, due to recent deaths.