

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ 17th Sunday after Pentecost ~ 20 September 2026

Preparation for Worship:
"The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts."
~Marcus Aurelius

Prelude *Morning Song* David Schelat
During the prelude, we encourage you to quiet your mind and prepare your heart for worship.

Introit 413 *Come into God's Presence*

Call to Worship:

Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, who hears the cries of the people.

People: Give thanks to the Lord.

Leader: God's works are great; remember all that God has done.

People: Give thanks to the Lord.

Leader: God has done wonderful things, always remembering God's covenant.

People: Give thanks to the Lord. Glory and praise are God's due.

Prayer of Adoration:

O God, you know our every need before we ask; you provide for all our needs and many of our desires. You bless us all. Make us truly thankful, and empower us to bless others through the gifts that you have given us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 307** *God of Grace and God of Glory*

Call to Prayer

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. We have not been gracious or grateful. We have failed to be mindful of all that you have done for us. Forgive us, and fill our lives with gratitude. Let us share our gifts and live in your love. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

We who are reconciled to God, should we not also be reconciled to one another? 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.

Prayer for Illumination

Strengthen us, O God, with the wisdom of your Word. Give us ears to hear it and courage to practice it in our lives. Amen.

First Scripture Reading John 13:3-5, 12-17

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Thought to Carry

This is a new feature in our weekly worship. Pastor Snyder takes this time to speak directly and briefly to our children and youth, leaving them with a thought to discuss with their families. Children and youth may head to their Sunday School classrooms during the hymn that follows.

***Hymn 835**

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

One Person's Story: Elder Craig Grella

Second Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

Bob Chilcott

Sermon

"What's a Life Worth?"

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Response 571

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.

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 724**

O Jesus, I Have Promised

***Charge and Benediction**

Extroit 542

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Postlude

Little Prelude in C Major

J.S. Bach

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