Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ All Saints' Day ~ 1 November 2026

Preparation for Worship:
"*We've all had saints in our lives, by which I mean not plaster saints, not moral exemplars…but saints in the sense of life-givers, people through knowing whom we become more alive*."
~Frederick Buechner

Prelude *Goin' Home* Lyndell Leatherman, arr.
During the prelude, we encourage you to silence your mind and prepare for worship.

Introit Come into God's Presence

Call to Worship:
Leader: Blessed are the poor in spirit,
People: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Litany for All Saints:
Be gracious to us; deliver your people.
People: Hear us, O God.
You loved us before the world was made. You rescued the people of your promise. You spoke through your prophets. You gave your only Son for the life of the world.
People: Hear us, O God.
For us and for our salvation, he was born of Mary; who by his cross and suffering redeemed the world; who on the third day rose from the dead and has given us victory over death; who ascended on high and intercedes for us.
People: Great is your love.
For the gift of your Holy Spirit. For the one holy church. For the cloud of witnesses into which we are baptized.
People: Thanks be to God.
For all the humble and holy, our patents in faith. For the noble band of the prophets. For the glorious company of the apostles. For the white-robed army of martyrs. For the cherubim and seraphim, and all holy angels.
People: Thanks be to God.
Be gracious to us; deliver your people.
People: Hear us, O God.
Give new life to your servants by the grace of baptism. Strengthen all who bear the sign of the cross. Clothe us in compassion and love. Bring us with all your saints to the river of life.
People: Hear us, O God.

Prayer of Adoration:
Mighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son, Christ our Lord. Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who love you; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn 326** *For All the Saints*
1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!
3 O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!
4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Call to Prayer
Jesus said: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in every age you have raised up your servants to live and die in faith. We confess that we are indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy, forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance
"Have you not seen? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, creator of the ends of the earth. God gives power to the faint and increases their strength." 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 of Illumination
Jesus said: Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven. Amen.

First Scripture Reading Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.
People: Thanks be to God.

A Thought to Carry
We take 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 321** *The Church's One Foundation*

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 5:1-12

Choral Anthem *From Age to Age the Same* Lloyd Larson

Sermon **"The Company of the Blessed"** Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Response *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.

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, see hymn 607.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Communion is received at the front of the church. Please approach the servers by way of the center aisle, receive the elements, and return to your seat by way of the side aisles. You may also receive communion in your pew. Remain seated, and it will be brought to you. Gluten-free bread is available upon request. All are invited to receive communion without exception, and all are free to abstain.

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Sanctus: Hymn 565 *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord* Remain seated

Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of power, God of might!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Communion Music

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 Stewardship Cheerful Giver Stewardship Drive Kiri Rising

***Closing Hymn 69** *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

***Charge and Benediction**

Choral Extroit *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

Postlude *Herr Jesu Christ, Dich Zu Uns Wend* J.S. Bach

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