

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



Let
Our
Light
Shine

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

**04 October 2026 -- Order of Worship
World Communion Sunday**

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ World Communion Sunday ~ 4 October 2026

Preparation for Worship:

Prelude *Improvisation on TRUST AND OBEY* Elizabeth Krouse
During the prelude, we encourage you to quiet your mind and prepare your heart for worship.

Introit *Come into God's Presence*

Call to Worship:

Leader: A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace

People: for those who make peace.

Leader: Seek peace and pursue it.

People: Let mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to all.

Prayer of Adoration:

Living God: you are the light and the life of all peoples. In an anxious world, we turn our hearts and minds to you. At Jesus' birth, the angels proclaimed peace on earth and goodwill to all. Let us hear not only comfort in those words, but your call to do better; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 14** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Call to Prayer

"Come to me," Jesus says, "all you who are burdened, and I will give you rest." Let us cast our cares and sins upon God, who cares for us. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession:

O God, our hearts are weighed down by so many things. We carry burdens that were never meant to be ours. We worry about the future. We fret about the past. We feel anxiety for the state of our world. Our judgment is clouded by old commitments to this group or that. And yet, your call is to peace: in our lives and between people. Forgive us for dedicating our efforts to lesser things and doubting your word. Give us that peace which passes understanding, so that we might carry it into our relationships and into your world; through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

"I will give you peace, and you shall lie down in safety, and none shall make you afraid." Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven. Only go now, and walk in the ways of peace. 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

Eternal God, in Christ you promise hope and restoration to a broken world. Touch these words and let them be your living word to us today, so that we might walk in the ways of peace. Amen.

First Scripture Reading Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Pew Bible Page 66

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

A Thought to Carry

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.

Psalter: Hymn 61

*Your Law, O Lord, Is Perfect
Remain seated for the singing of the Psalms.*

Psalms 19

Second Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

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Anthem

Still Small Voice

Ian Assersohn

Sermon

“Pressing on or Hanging On”

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.

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**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

In the Reformed tradition, communion is not just a symbolic act; it is a “means of grace,” bestowing comfort and guidance. Everyone is invited to take part, no matter what you believe or whether you are baptized. You are likewise free to abstain. Today, communion is served both at the front of the church

and in the pews. When the minister gives you the signal, approach the front by way of the center aisle and return to your seat by way of the side aisles. If you remain in your pew, someone will bring the elements to you there. Gluten and casein free options are available upon request.

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 Mission

Carnegie Carryout Dinner Ministry

Bethany Gibbs, Jean Miewald

***Closing Hymn 385**

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

***Charge and Benediction**

Extroit

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Postlude

Fugue in G Minor

J.S. Bach

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

***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:

Gloria Child, Green, Nick Helmer, Jamie, Dennis Kriek The Family of Joan McAnulty
Cathy Morgan, Barb Oram, Brody Polk, Kathy Repko, Resa Walsh, Adam Vance