

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



*Let
Our
Light
Shine*

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

**18 October 2026 -- Order of Worship
21st Sunday after Pentecost**

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Order for Worship ~ 21st Sunday after Pentecost ~ 18 October 2026

Preparation for Worship:

*"We are driven by five genetic needs: survival, love and belonging, power, freedom, and fun."
~William Glasser, psychiatrist*

Prelude

Prière à Notre Dame

Leon Boellmann

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: Sing to the Lord and bless God's name.

People: Tell of God's saving power from day to day.

Leader: Worship the Lord in holy splendor.

People: Let all the earth tremble with joy before God.

Prayer of Adoration:

Holy God, you have made us in your image, and we belong to you alone. Therefore we offer ourselves to you in service, love, and praise. Inspire us. Guide us. Fashion us and use us for the glory of your realm and the good of your world; 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 12**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Call to Prayer

God does not regard us with partiality, but with the grace of Christ Jesus deals with each of us according to our need. Trusting in God's mercy, together let us confess our faults. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession

What a debt we owe to you, O God. You have given us all things in Christ, and yet we withhold from you the honor and glory that are yours. Instead, we pay tribute to the empires of this world, placing our trust in their broken values, and giving our resources to their unfair systems. We rarely consider how our lifestyles affect the living creatures with which we share this planet. Increase our awareness. Broaden our vision. And help us to live in ways that do honor to you and justice to our neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. Let the sea roar and the fields shout with joy." 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

Holy One, true and living God, through the message of your gospel and the power of your Spirit, make us participants in the life and love of Christ, your living Word. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Micah 6:1-8

Pew Bible Page 866

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 157**

I Danced in the Morning

One Person's Story: Elder Dave Dickey

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

Pew Bible Page 24

Anthem

Draw the Circle Wide

Mark Miller

Sermon

"Belonging"

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 821** *My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing?)*

*Charge and Benediction

Extrait 542 *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

Postlude

Toccata

Leon Boellmann

Immediately following worship on Sunday, October 18, Alan Hohlfelder, chair of the Finance Committee, will offer a brief summary of the 2026 financial condition of Bower Hill Church along with prospects for the year ahead. Please plan to attend.

***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, Nancy Green, Nick Helmer, Jamie, Connie May, The Family of Joan McAnulty
Cathy Morgan, Barb Oram, Curt Philson, Brody Polk, Kathy Repko, Resa Walsh, Adam Vance