

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



*Let
Our
Light
Shine*

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

**11 January 2026 -- Order of Worship
Baptism of the Lord**

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ Baptism of the Lord ~ 11 January 2026

Preparation for Worship:
"Nothing is softer or more flexible than water, yet nothing can resist it."
~Lao Tzu

Prelude

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Paul Manz

Introit

Litany for Baptism of the Lord Sunday:

Leader: In the beginning, darkness covered the deep, and God said: Let there be light.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Leader: Through the words of the prophet, the Lord said: When you pass through the waters I will be with you.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Leader: Do not fear, says the Lord; I am with you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Leader: When Jesus was baptized by John, suddenly the heavens were opened.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Leader: And as Jesus was coming up out of the water, the Spirit of God rested on him like a dove.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Leader: And a voice said: You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.

People: The voice of the Lord is over the waters!

Prayer of Adoration:

Mighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit, and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit, faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***Hymn 159**

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

Call to Prayer

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord. Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Gathering Prayer

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, making us part of the body of Christ. We confess that we remain preoccupied with ourselves, separated from one another. We cling to destructive habits, hold grudges, and show reluctance to welcome one another. We allow the past to hold us captive. In your loving-kindness, have mercy on us, and free us from sin. Fulfill the promises of our baptism so that we may rise to new life, and live together in grace. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God speaks to us: You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased. 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.

At this time, children 5th grade and under are invited to meet their teacher in the narthex for Sunday School.

Prayer of Illumination

Saving God, source of our calling, your Word is full of power and glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may receive your grace and live as your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:1-6, 11-12

Pew Bible Page 2

Leader: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn 96**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Pew Bible Page 3

Anthem

Sing of God Made Manifest

Carl Daw, Jr, Jakob Hintz, JS Bach

Sermon

“Things We Need to Hear”

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Response 601

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 488 *I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry

***Charge and Benediction**

Extroit

Postlude *Fugue in C Major* Dietrich Buxtehude
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:

Matt Arner, William Casey, Faye Cunningham, Joseph Duchene, Jennifer Dunn, Nancy Green
Rebecca Kurtz, Family of Sam Levine, Alex Lorber, Joan McAnulty, Barb Oram,
Baby John Shabel and his family, Family of Antoinette Shanahan, Resa Walsh