

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



Let
Our
Light
Shine

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

**11 October 2026 -- Order of Worship
20th Sunday after Pentecost**

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Order for Worship ~ 20th Sunday after Pentecost ~ 11 October 2026

Preparation for Worship:
"Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity."
~Simone Weil

Prelude *Bicinium on "Father, We Praise Thee"* John Barr
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: Give thanks to God for the faith we share.

People: Be steadfast in hope through Jesus Christ.

Leader: O sing to the Lord a new song.

People: Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Prayer of Adoration:

Mighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of your mercy, that your church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your name; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 687** *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

Call to Prayer

"When we pass through the deep waters or go through times of fiery trial, the Lord our God is with us." With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer, let us confess our sin. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste to the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal us and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

"Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." 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

God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

Pew Bible Page 198

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.

***Psalter: Hymn 802**

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Remain seated for the singing of the Psalms.*

Psalm 23

Second Scripture Reading

Acts 16:25-34

Pew Bible Page 136

Anthem

Lead Me, Lord

Sermon

“We Are All Here”

Elder Michelle Snyder

Michelle is Executive Director of Soul Shop, an organization helping churches minister to suicidal desperation.

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 304 *O Sing a New Song to the Lord* (choir only)

***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 39** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

***Charge and Benediction**

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

Postlude *Menuet* Leon Boellmann
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, 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