

Peace

“Glory to God
in the highest
heaven, and on
earth peace to
those on whom
his favor rests.”

Luke 2:14, NIV



Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Peace Sunday ~ Second Sunday of Advent ~ Christmas Pageant
7 December 2025 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:
“*You cannot find peace by avoiding life.*”
~Virginia Woolf

Prelude *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Paul Karvonen

Choral Introit

Call to Worship: Drake Robbins

Leader: A messenger from God is coming.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: A new day of mercy is dawning.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: A voice is crying in the wilderness.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Litany for Advent: Charlie Webler

O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all peoples, before you earthly rulers will keep silent, and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Key of David, Scepter over the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open: Come to set the prisoners free.

Come, Lord Jesus.

God of all generations, though signs and seasons change, your promise is faithful and your word will never pass away. Give us courage and strength as we watch and wait for Jesus Christ, our redeemer, who is coming in glory to reign.

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles: Charlie Webler

Leader: On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of peace. “The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid...”

People: The calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.”

Prayer of Adoration

God our Savior, your word shakes the wilderness, washes away evil, and causes all flesh to rejoice. Make us ready to greet you at the coming of your holy realm; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Call to Prayer Michela Robbins

There is a voice crying out in the wilderness of sin. God is calling to us with love. Let us confess our sin, trusting in God’s saving grace.

Prayer of Confession Michela Robbins

We confess, O God, that we are not prepared to welcome your way of righteousness, justice, and peace. You call us to repentance, but we refuse to change our ways. You call us to resist oppression, but we resign ourselves to evil. You call us to be reconciled, but we remain divided and afraid. Forgive us, God of grace. Pour out your Spirit in our lives

so that we may be forgiven, set free, and made ready to meet you at the coming of your holy realm; through Jesus Christ our Lord. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain made low, and the crooked made straight, and the rough made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. This is the good news we are waiting for: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Response: Gloria**

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***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.

Choral Anthem

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Richard Shepherd

Prayer for Illumination

Speak to us this day, O Lord. Visit us with your wisdom, overshadow us with your Spirit, and let it be with us according to your Word: Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Christmas Pageant

Solo

O Holy Night

Art Thomas, soloist

Hymn 122

Silent Night, Holy Night

Remain seated

Hymn 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Remain seated

Hymn 147

The First Nowell

Remain seated, vv. 1-4 only

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

Offering and Gifts of Self

Offertory Music

Noël Provençal

***Response: The Doxology**

*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 Doxology, use Hymn 607.*

Prayer of Dedication

***Hymn 145**

What Child Is This?

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude *Postlude on "Picardy"* Douglas Wagner
Please feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to remain and listen.

Thanks to Bower Hill Children and Youth for their work in preparing this pageant for our congregation.
Michael McElroy & Abigail Boisvert..... Narrators

Gus Watterson.....Pastor

Sunny Caramana.....Leslie

Maggie Webler.....Emily

Emma Marsteller.....Mary

Samuel Webler.....Joseph

Caroline Smith.....Interjecting Kid

Fritz Strauss.....King Herod

Maddox Dickey.....The Angel Gabriel

Elias Kunkle.....Star

Eliza Watterson & Poppy Marsteller.....Magi

Noelle Grella.....Bear

Shepherds	Animals
Lucy Ivey	Charlie Webler
Emmett McElroy	Zoey Dickey
William Young	Westley Kunkle

Angels
Charlotte Young
Ellie Grier

Costume director..... Addie Ivey

Finally, special thanks for our adult volunteers. This pageant would not have been possible without their help!
Colleen Marsteller, Ashley Dickey, Ruth Robbins, Alaina Kunkle, and Glenn Child.

*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, Beverly Burke, Sophie Burke, Joseph Duchene, Nancy Green, , Sam Levine, Alex Lorber
Family of Robert Olinger, Barb Oram, Antoinette Shanahan, Resa Walsh