

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ 3rd Sunday after Epiphany ~ 21 January 2024

Preparation for Worship:

*"Thanks to impermanence, everything is possible. Life itself is possible.
If a grain of corn is not impermanent, it can never be transformed into a stalk of corn.
If the stalk were not impermanent, it could never provide us with the ear of corn we eat."
~Thich Nhat Hanh*

Prelude

Jesus Loves Me

David Schelat

Choral Introit

God Welcomes All

Call to Worship:

Leader: From God comes my salvation.

People: For God alone my soul waits in silence.

Leader: God alone is my rock and my salvation.

People: God is my fortress; I shall never be shaken.

Prayer of Adoration

The present form of this world is passing away. Therefore, help us to focus on you, Lord, for true power and steadfast love belong to you. Amen.

***Hymn 14**

For the Beauty of the Earth

1 For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Refrain: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

*2 For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light: [Refrain]*

*3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: [Refrain]*

*4 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: [Refrain]*

*5 For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given; for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven. [Refrain]*

Call to Prayer

Trusting in the promise of grace, let us pour out our hearts before God. Together, let us say:

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, we repent of all the ways we turn from you. You call, but we do not listen. You show us your path, but we prefer our own way. Forgive us, heal us, and lead us back to you, that we might show mercy to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

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.

Time with the Children

All children from preschool through fourth grade are invited to the front steps for the children's sermon.

Prayer of Illumination

Speak your word to us, O God, so that we too may hear Jesus' call to be his disciples.

First Scripture Reading

Mark 1:14-20

Leader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn 726** *Will You Come and Follow Me*

- 1 *Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*
- 2 *Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*
- 3 *Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoner free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and so such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?*
- 4 *Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?*
- 5 *Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

Second Scripture Reading I Corinthians 7:29-31

Anthem A Prayer of St. Patrick Michael John Trotta

Sermon "The Present Form of This World" Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Response

***Affirmation of Faith** (From *A Brief Statement of Faith*, PCUSA)

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children, healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

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** *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 833**

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;

I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

2 O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;

my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

3 O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;

I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;

I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

***Charge and Benediction**

Extroit

Postlude

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Paul Manz

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