

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ 28 April 2024

Preparation for Worship:
"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."
~1 John 4:18

Prelude

Peace

E.L. Ashford

Choral Introit

God Welcomes All

Call to Worship:

Psalm 22

Leader: From God comes my praise in the great congregation.

People: The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

Leader: Those who seek the Lord will join in songs of praise.

People: All flesh will rise up and bow down before God.

Prayer of Adoration:

Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 645**

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

1 Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

2 What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth;

by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.

Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory!

3 The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,

an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,

as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory!

4 Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises,

that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.

Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part: to God all praise and glory!

Call to Prayer

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and one another our failure to love our neighbor and ourselves. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of our baptism and distanced ourselves from you. Forgive us and restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. 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

Come, Holy Spirit, that through your Word we may be guided into the love of God for all the world. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

John 15:1-8

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn 641**

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

Please stand

- 1 *When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!*
- 2 *How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!*
- 3 *So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!*
- 4 *And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Alleluia!*
- 5 *Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!*

Second Scripture Reading

1 John 4:7-21

Anthem

You do not walk alone

Elaine Hagenburg

Sermon

“Of Love and Fear”

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Response

***Affirmation of Faith**

**This is the good news which we have received,
in which we stand, and by which we are saved if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God, the first and the last,
the beginning and the end, our Lord and our God. Amen.**

Update on Haiti

Alan Hohlfelder for the Haiti Water Team

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

Minute for Mission

Better Stewardship through LED

Mike Reimer, Building & Grounds

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 450**

Be Thou My Vision

- 1 *Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*
- 2 *Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.*
- 3 *Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.*
- 4 *High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

***Charge and Benediction**

**All: Lord, let us go into the world knowing compassion and seeking justice,
giving voice to the silent and strength to the weak.**

May we hear one another, see one another and love one another.

It is as simple as that and indeed very hard.

**But help us to remember that with the love of Christ in our hearts,
and with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, we can and will follow your call.**

Pastor: May the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you from this time forth and forevermore. Amen.

***Extroit**

Postlude

Allegretto in C Major

Cesar Franck

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