

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Fourth Sunday in Lent ~ 19 March 2023 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:

"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in their true beauty is revealed only if there is light from within."

~Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

Prelude

Abide With Me

Bower Hill Phil

Michela Robins, Bea Watterson, Henry Carter, Leah Smith, Elise Gibbs, Alexander Konitsky, Helen Carter

Choral Introit

This Is the Day

Call to Worship:

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

People: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: Maker of heaven and earth.

Prayer of Adoration

God of life, your Word leads us into the ways of compassion and truth, service and joy. Visit us in this hour of worship and restore our spirits, so that our living might be a blessing to your world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 32**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

1 *I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,*

that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day.

The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

2 *I sing the goodness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.*

God formed the creatures through the Word, and then pronounced them good.

Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,

if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

3 *There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known.*

And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne,

while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,

and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

Call to Prayer

You who thirst for grace, come to the waters. You who seek mercy, come to the waters. God is not far, but near, around us and within. Together let us confess our sins:

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, you come to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your ways. We are misled by pride; we fail to show forth your love; we neglect justice and ignore your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to the paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

Listen so that you may live: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end. Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven. Amen.

***Response: Jesus, Remember Me**

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

(Sing two times.)

***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

Children 2nd grade and under are invited to the chancel steps for the children's sermon.

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these forty days of Lent, and minister to us by your Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed, to the glory of your name. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

John 9:1-11, 39

The Psalter: Psalm 23

In Hebrew

Cantor Sierra Fox

In English

Rabbi Aaron Meyer of Temple Emanuel of South Hills

Second Scripture Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Choral Response

Threefold Amen

Sermon

"All that Is Good and Right and True"

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

***Affirmation of Faith:**

"We Are Not Alone"

United Church of Canada, used with permission

We are not alone,

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others

by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

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.

Welcome and Next Steps

Offering and Offertory Anthem

Heal Us, Now

Leon Sher

***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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn 802**

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

- 1 *The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.*
- 2 *Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.*
- 3 *Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.*
- 4 *In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.*
- 5 *Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!*
- 6 *And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Extrait**

Sevenfold Amen

Postlude

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