

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ~ 5 February 2023 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:

*“By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is the noblest;
Second, by imitation, which is the easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.”
~Confucius*

Prelude

Allegro

Cynthia Dobrinski

Choral Introit

This Is the Day

Call to Worship:

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.
Jesus proclaims, “You are the light of the world.”

People: Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Adoration

Holy God, you gave the law to show your people the way of righteousness. Help us receive your commandments as grace and live as your obedient children, so that your goodness may shine in us and through us, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ, in whom we have access to you in boldness and confidence through faith to pray. Amen.

***Hymn 826**

Lift High the Cross

REFRAIN: *Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.*

1) *Come, Christians, follow where the Savior trod, the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.* REFRAIN

2) *All newborn servants of the Crucified bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.* REFRAIN

3) *O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, your death has brought us life eternally.* REFRAIN

4) *So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory.* REFRAIN

Call to Prayer

Let us confess our sins before God, our help in times of trouble.

Prayer of Confession

Mighty God, we have asked for your righteous judgment against others, but we have not acknowledged the faults in our own lives. We have worshiped you with our lips, but dishonored you with our actions. We have prayed that you would end suffering in our world, yet we have not practiced compassion and generosity toward others. Forgive our self-righteousness, and give us integrity of heart, that we might shine as lights in your world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

In mercy God forgives our sin and grants us genuine repentance through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven. Amen.

***Response: The Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost!

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen

***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

Lord, open our understanding by the power of your Spirit, that as the Word is proclaimed we may receive holy wisdom to grasp the gifts you have set before us, through Christ, the living Word.

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

Hymn 159

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

- 1) *O sing a song of Bethlehem, of shepherds watching there,
and of the news that came to them from angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem fills all the world today.
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth the angels sing alway.*
- 2) *O sing a song of Nazareth, of sunny days of joy;
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath, and of the sinless boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth in every heart may grow.
Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.*
- 3) *O sing a song of Galilee, of lake and woods and hill,
of him who walked upon the sea and bade its waves be still.
For though, like waves on Galilee, dark seas of trouble roll,
when faith has heard the Master's word, falls peace upon the soul.*
- 4) *O sing a song of Calvary, its glory and dismay,
of him who hung upon the tree, and took our sins away.
For he who died on Calvary is risen from the grave,
and Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored, is mighty now to save.*

Second Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 2:1-12

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Choral Response

Threefold Amen

Sermon

"The God in You"

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Invitation to Offering

Offering and Choral Anthem

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

Sylvia Duston

***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! Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Sung by choir and congregation

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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

***Hymn 307**

God of Grace and God of Glory

- 1) *God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story, bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.*
- 2) *Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.*
- 3) *Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.*
- 4) *Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Sevenfold Amen

Postlude

Menuet

Léon Boëllmann

Please feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to remain and listen.