

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ 21 April 2024

Preparation for Worship:

*"Look, I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as wise as serpents and as gentle as doves."
~Matthew 10:16*

Prelude

Elevation in F Major

Alex Guilmant

Choral Introit

God Welcomes All

Call to Worship:

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our Shepherd.

People: He lays down his life for the sheep.

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our Shepherd.

People: He knows us, and we belong to him.

Leader: The Lord Jesus Christ is our Shepherd.

People: Let us listen for his voice.

Prayer of Adoration:

We are your people, O God, the sheep of your pasture, the flock you have gathered. Lead us beside still waters; teach us the way of righteousness; and feed us at your table; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn 396**

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

1 Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.

Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?

All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.

Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

2 Sisters, will you come and help us? Moses' sister aided him.

Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?

Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found.

Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

3 Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace and filled with fears?

Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears?

Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound!

Pray, O pray, that holy manna will be scattered all around.

4 Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.

Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new.

Christ will call us home to heaven; at his table we'll sit down.

Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

Call to Prayer

Sometimes our hearts condemn us, but the God who loves us is greater than our hearts. God offers mercy, love, and peace. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin. Together let us say:

Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us and abide in us by the power of your Spirit, so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

"I am the Good Shepherd," Jesus says. "The Good Shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." 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

Lord God, Good Shepherd, by the leading of your Spirit, help us to listen for your voice and follow in your paths all the days of our lives. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

I John 3:16-24

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalter: Hymn 802

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Please remain seated.

Psalm 23

- 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.*

Second Scripture Reading

John 10:11-18

Anthem

Fear Not, For I have Redeemed You

Diane Hannibal

Sermon

"The Shepherd's Voice"

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.**

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

Minuetto

Beethoven

Addie Ivey, clarinet

***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 81**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

1 Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.

God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.

On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?

With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2 Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear

for a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.

Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,

safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

3 See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,

well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.

Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?

Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.

***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.