

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)  
23rd Sunday after Pentecost ~ 16 November 2025 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:

*"You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals.  
Each of us must work for our own improvement and share a general responsibility for all humanity..."*  
~Marie Curie

**Prelude**

*Prelude in E Minor*

J.S. Bach

**Choral Introit**

*May I Be Empty*

**Call to Worship:**

(Isaiah 12:5-6)

Leader: Sing praises, O people, for God has done gloriously.

**People: Shout aloud and sing for joy.**

Leader: From the highest peaks to the lowest caverns,

**People: shout aloud and sing for joy.**

Leader: From the tiniest creatures to the greatest herds,

**People: shout aloud and sing for joy.**

Leader: In the midst of our joys and even our sorrows,

**People: shout aloud and sing for joy.**

**Prayer of Adoration**

O God our Redeemer, all creation sings your praise. You are justice and mercy, judgment and grace. Following in the way of our Lord Jesus Christ, we seek to be faithful, ever sustained by your Spirit; 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 612**

*We Praise You, O God*

*1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.*

*2 We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;  
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.  
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.*

*3 With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!*

**Call to Prayer**

Trusting in God's goodness to us, let us confess our sins to God and to each other. Together, let us say:

**Prayer of Confession**

**God of peace, we confess that we are people who live in fear. We have let anxiety rule our days and worry our nights. We have been distracted by our troubles and the worries of the world. We have ignored your command to not be afraid. Look upon us with mercy. Calm our hearts, and assure us of your presence and love. Renew our ability to find comfort in you, so that we might share your peace and wellbeing with others. Amen.** [Silent prayers]

**Words of Assurance**

The prophet Isaiah assures us: God is building a new heaven and a new earth; the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. Forgiven and freed, rejoice in what the Lord is creating in you, in me, in all creation. 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.

*Children pre-K through 4th grade are invited to meet in the narthex for Sunday school.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

God of earthquake, God of silence: quiet in us any voice but your own, that by the power of your Spirit we might hear, and in hearing we might believe, and in believing we might act, making way for your new creation. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading**

Luke 21:5-19

Lector: Holy wisdom, holy Word.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalter: Hymn 371**

*New Songs of Celebration Render  
Remain seated to sing the Psalter.*

**Psalms 98**

*1 New songs of celebration render  
to God who has great wonders done;  
love sits enthroned in ageless splendor;  
come and adore the mighty One.  
God has made known the great salvation  
which all the saints with joy confess.  
God has revealed to every nation  
truth and unending righteousness.*

*2 Joyfully, heartily resounding,  
let every instrument and voice  
peal out the praise of grace abounding,  
calling the whole world to rejoice.  
Trumpets and organs, set in motion  
such sounds as make the heavens ring;  
all things that live in earth and ocean,  
sound forth the song; your praises bring.*

*3 Rivers and seas and torrents roaring,  
honor the Lord with wild acclaim;  
mountains and stones, look up adoring,  
and find a voice to praise God's name.  
Righteous, commanding, ever glorious,  
praises be sung that never cease:  
just is our God, whose truth victorious  
establishes the world in peace.*

**Second Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 65:17-25

**Anthem**

*Allegro Festivo*

J Wayne Kerr

Sermon

**"Our Best Dreams Come from Somewhere"**

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Response 601

*Amen*

**Reception of New Members:** Daniel Buysse, Vanessa Grey, Dorothy Sherwood, Wendy Duchene

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**The Apostles' Creed**

I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, his Only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the virgin, Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. 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**

**Offering, Gifts of Self, and Annual Pledges**

**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.*

\*For a gender-neutral Doxology, use Hymn 607.

**\*Prayer of Dedication and Blessing of the Pledges**

**\*Closing Hymn 761**

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

*1 Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,  
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.  
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,  
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.*

*2 Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.*

*Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,  
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*3 Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,  
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.  
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,  
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*4 So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life  
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.  
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,  
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Choral Response**

*Alleluia*

**Postlude**

*Toccata*

Leon boellmann

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