

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order for Worship ~ 2nd Sunday after Epiphany ~ 19 January 2025

Preparation for Worship:

"Everyone has been made for some particular work, and the desire for that work has been put in every heart."
~Rumi

Prelude

Deep River

Anthony Giamanco

Introit

Alleluia

Call to Worship:

Leader: This day is holy to the Lord our God.

People: Let us gather with gratitude to hear God's Word.

Leader: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

People: Let us celebrate the time of God's favor.

Prayer of Adoration:

God of all generations, you who have gathered us together through all the ages: Tell us once again the stories of your life, law, and love, so that we may remember who we are as the body of Christ in our time; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***Hymn 263**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

1 All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!

2 Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!

3 Let every kindred, every tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him Lord of all!

4 Oh that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

Call to Prayer

The God of every blessing looks upon us with grace and favor, even when we are captive to the curse of sin. Trusting in our gracious God, let us renounce all that is evil and seek the mercy of the Lord. Together, let us pray:

Prayer of Confession:

God of steadfast love, we confess that we do not live according to your way. You bless the poor with the promise of your realm, but we seek earthly treasure. You bless the hungry with the promise of fullness of life, but we are seldom satisfied with enough. You bless the brokenhearted with the promise of laughter, but we praise positivity and have little time for the mournful. You bless the despised with the promise of reward, but we seek approval and distrust those who are different. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us to seek your blessing and to be a blessing to all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

Receive the blessing of the living God, whose steadfast love is everlasting. 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

Spirit of the Lord, help us to proclaim good news to the poor, release to the captive, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed. Let this be the time of your favor. Let your Word be fulfilled today; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Psalm 36:5-10

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn 733**

We All Are One in Mission

*1 We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission
compels us from above
to plan and work together
that all may know Christ's love.*

*2 We all are called for service
to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different;
our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others
by God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation
may feel God's warm embrace.*

*3 Now let us be united
and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel
for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission;
we all are one in call,*

*our varied gifts united
by Christ, the Lord of all.*

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:13-20

Anthem

I Will Come to You

David Haas

Sermon

“Sanity in an Insane World”

Rev. John Free

Response

Amen

***Affirmation of Faith**

“Credo for Christians”

**I worship and adore God, source, essence, and aim of all things,
Spirit that enlivens all beings.**

**I follow the way of Jesus, who found God in himself
and shared a way for others to find God in themselves.**

He was born through love,

He lived for love,

He suffered for love,

He died for love,

But love never dies.

**I submit myself to the leading of the love that is God,
that I may be compassionate toward all beings,
that I may live and serve in community with others,
that I may ask for and offer forgiveness,
that I may praise and enjoy God forever. 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

***The Doxology: Hymn 606, 607** *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 547**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Prelude in C Major

JS Bach

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

We welcome the Rev. John Free to our pulpit this morning while Pastor Snyder is in Cameroon.