

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Order of Worship ~ Second Sunday of Easter ~ 11 April 2021

Preparation for Worship:
"Love sought is good, but given unsought is better."
~William Shakespeare

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

People: Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Leader: Peace be with you. Jesus stands among us.

People: Peace be with you. The risen Lord is here.

Prayer of Adoration

Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

- 1) *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*
- 2) *All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.*
- 3) *Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever-singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.*

Call to Prayer

"The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness, interceding with sighs too deep for words." Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin. Together let us say:

Gathering Prayer

**Mighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death.
We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death.
We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the
cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse
the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust in your power to change our
lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant, given in Jesus Christ, the
risen Lord. Amen. [Silent prayers]**

Words of Assurance

"I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven.

***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.*

Announcements

Prayer of Illumination

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Enliven our hearts by your Holy Spirit so that we may proclaim the good news of eternal and abundant life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

John 20:19-31

The Psalter: Psalm 133

Read responsively

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**It is like precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.**

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained blessing: life forevermore.

Second Scripture Reading

Acts 4:32-35

Sermon

“What Is Peace?”

Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure

***Response 592**

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.

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.

***Closing Hymn**

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

1) *Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine;*

Word of God and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight.

2) *Holy Spirit, love divine, glow within this heart of mine.*

Kindle every high desire, perish self in thy pure fire.

3) *Holy Spirit, power divine, fill and nerve this will of mine;*

by thee may I strongly live, bravely bear and nobly strive.

4) *Holy Spirit, right divine, make my conscience wholly thine.*

Be my law and I shall be firmly bound, forever free.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude**