

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)  
Order for Worship ~ Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ 20 September 2020

Preparation for Worship:

*“A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.”*  
~Dwight D. Eisenhower

Prelude

*Glorificamus*

John Redford

Call to Worship:

Leader: Live in a way that is worthy of the gospel.

**People: Stand firm in the Spirit, side by side.**

Leader: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**People: You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself.**

Prayer of Adoration:

Mighty God, you created the heavens and the earth, and humankind in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; 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

*O God of Every Nation*

- 1) *O God of every nation, of every race and land,  
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.  
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,  
in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife-torn world.*
- 2) *From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,  
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,  
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,  
deliver every nation, Eternal God, we pray.*
- 3) *Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release  
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase;  
when hope and courage falter, your still, small voice be heard;  
with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.*
- 4) *Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,  
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,  
till dawns the morning glorious when peace on earth shall reign,  
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.*

Call to Prayer:

“Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us, since in every respect he was tempted as we are.” Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

Gathering Prayer:

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name and what our hearts can no longer bear. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.** [Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance:

“This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.” Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: in him we are forgiven. Amen.

\*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.*

Choral Anthem

*Autumn Carol*

Russell Schultz-Widmar

Announcements

Prayer of Illumination:

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, and prepare our hearts to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that in hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

The Psalter: Psalm 145:1-8

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; God's greatness is unsearchable.

**One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.**

On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

**The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,  
and I will declare your greatness.**

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

**The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

Sermon

**"The Privilege of Suffering"**

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

\*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

*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

1) *O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;*

*tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

2) *Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;*

*teach me the wayward feet to stay and guide them in the homeward way.*

3) *Teach me thy patience, still with thee, in closer, dearer company,*

*in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.*

4) *In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way;*

*in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.*

\*Postlude

*Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

Paul Manz