

WEST BERLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1876

Dr. Robert J. Gustafson, Pastor

Scott Fisher, Liturgist

Julia Roll, Organist

Amy Martindale, Song Leader

5th Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

GATHERING TIME (10:15 – 10:30 AM) Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6145951009>

Dial 929 436 2866 or 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 614 595 1009

WELCOME & PRELUDE God is Good. **All the time.** & All the time. **God is good.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the wilderness, water brings life. **P: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.**

L: In the Word of God, the good news gives light. **P: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.**

L: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone. **P: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.**

L: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity. Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess to God and to one another our failure to love our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you: in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Gloria Patri”

No. 9

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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION & FIRST READING

Psalm 22:25-31

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. ²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ²⁸ For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. ²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. ³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord ³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

YOUTH MESSAGE Branches on the Tree

SPECIAL MUSIC

SECOND READING John 15:1-8 Jesus the True Vine

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON “Abide With Me”

<p>Verse 1 <i>Abide with me: fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.</i></p>	<p>Verse 2 <i>Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day; Earth joys grow dim; its glories pass away. Change and decay in all around I see. O thou who changest not, abide with me.</i></p>
<p>Verse 3 <i>I need thy presence every passing hour. What but thy grace can foil the tempter’s power? Who, like thyself, may Guide and Stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, O abide with me.</i></p>	<p>Verse 4 <i>I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness. Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still if thou abide with me.</i></p>
<p>Verse 5 <i>Hold thou Thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies. Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.</i></p>	

HYMN “Abide with Me” No. 584 (See attached)

ANNOUNCEMENTS - JOYS & CONCERNS – PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – 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.

CALL TO OFFERING - PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING – DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heav’nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

HYMN “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” No. 677 (See attached)

CHARGE, BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever. Grant you joy, perfect peace, strength in every endeavor. Lift your eyes and see his face, feel his grace forever. May the Lord mighty God bless and keep you forever.

Abide with Me

The Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.
Deuteronomy 31:6

1. A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide. The dark-ness
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day. Earth's joys grow
3. I need Thy pres-ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour. What but Thy
4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless; Ills have no
5. Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes; Shine thro' the

deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide. When oth - er help - ers
dim; its glo - ries pass a - way. Change and de - cay in
grace can foil the tempt-er's pow'r? Who, like Thy - self, my
weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness. Where is death's sting? Where,
gloom, and point me to the skies. Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and

fail and com-forts flee, Help of the help-less, O a - bide with me.
all a - round I see; O Thou who chang-est not, a - bide with me.
Guide and Stay can be? Thro' cloud and sun-shine, O a - bide with me.
grave, thy vic - to - ry? I triumph still if Thou a - bide with me.
earth's vain shad-ows flee. In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

WORDS: Henry F. Lyte, 1847
MUSIC: William H. Monk, 1861

EVENTIDE
10.10.10.10.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

677

You are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris-tian love;
 2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3. We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear;
 4. When we a - sun - der part, It gives us in - ward pain;

The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.
 And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet a - gain.

WORDS: John Fawcett, 1782

MUSIC: Johann G. Naegeli, 1828; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845

DENNIS
S.M.