

WEST BERLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1876

Dr. Robert J. Gustafson, Pastor

Scott Fisher, Liturgist

Julia Roll, Organist

Amy Martindale, Principal Vocalist

5th Sunday of Lent

April 6, 2025

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: As people formed by God, we give praise to God:

P: Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert, Christ among us—God is doing a new thing!

L: As people restored by God, we give praise to God:

P: Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert, Christ among us— God is doing a new thing!

L: As people pressing on in faith, we give praise to God:

P: Dry ground in the sea, rivers in the desert, Christ among us— God is doing a new thing!

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we ask God to restore us to the way we have been, then we have not asked for as much as God intends to give. God is not content simply to return or restore us to former things. Instead, God seeks to give the gift of resurrection—a new and abundant life. With confidence in God’s generosity, we confess our sins and seek the new life offered in Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the church, and in the world. We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ, for you overturn our notions of power and protocol. Sure of our own righteousness, we are critical of others. Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us. Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others. Help us bend our lives toward your own life of self-giving and sacrifice. Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The apostle Paul reminds us that we do not make ourselves righteous. Our righteousness comes through faith in Christ, who has made us his own. Forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead, we press on toward the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. The old life has passed away—and a new life has begun.

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

Psalms 126

A Harvest of Joy

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” ³ The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. ⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. ⁵ May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. ⁶ Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

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

YOUTH MESSAGE

A Most Precious Gift

SPECIAL MUSIC

SECOND READING John 12:1-8

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON "Embrace Kairos Times, Have Time for Wonder"

Chronos (measured, scheduled time) and **Kairos** (God's transformative, sacred moments)

HYMN "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind" No. 472 (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.

LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Our Belief - 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 on 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessing and Sharing of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

HYMN "Be Thou My Vision" No. 460 (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.

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

472

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him. Psalm 37:5

1. Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, For - give our fool - ish
 2. In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, Be - side the Syr - ian
 3. Drop Thy still dews of qui - et - ness Till all our striv - ings
 4. Breathe thro' the heats of our de - sire Thy cool - ness and Thy

ways! Re - clothe us in our right - ful minds; In pur - er
 sea, The gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, Let us, like
 cease. Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our
 balm. Let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire; Speak thro' the

lives Thy ser - vice find; In deep - er rev - 'rence, praise.
 them, with - out a word, Rise up and fol - low Thee.
 or - dered lives con - fess The beau - ty of Thy peace.
 earth - quake, wind, and fire, O still small voice of calm!

WORDS: John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872
 MUSIC: Frederick C. Maker, 1887

REST
 8.6.8.8.6.

Be Thou My Vision

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
Psalm 73:25

1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
 4. High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 May I reach heav - en's joys, Bright Heav - en's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son,
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
 High King of Heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.
 Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.