

WEST BERLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1876

Dr. Robert J. Gustafson, Pastor

Jerianne Gooding, Liturgist

Julia Roll and Edmund Cox, Organists

Amy Martindale, Principal Vocalist

Proper 16

August 23, 2026

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: You, who are many, are transformed to become one in Christ.

P: We, who are many, are called to worship God, the Three in One. Let us worship God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Confident in this ever-gracious, never-failing help, we come before the Lord, confessing our sin and seeking forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgiving God, we confess that we are conformed to this world. We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrust to our care. We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us. We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring the latest instead of the lasting. Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

L: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,

P: we would now be lost in sin.

L: But it is the Lord who is on our side.

P: And so we are forgiven. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

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 138

Thanksgiving and Praise

¹I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; ²I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. ³On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul. ⁴All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth. ⁵They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. ⁶For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away. ⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me. ⁸The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

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

YOUTH MESSAGE

The "Superpower" Backpack

SPECIAL MUSIC

Elizabeth Fisher, Violin

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

The New Life in Christ

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

"Church, Not as a Noun, But a Verb"

HYMN

"Just As I Am"

No. 343

(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 –DOXOLOGY-PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

"Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go"

No. 781

(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.

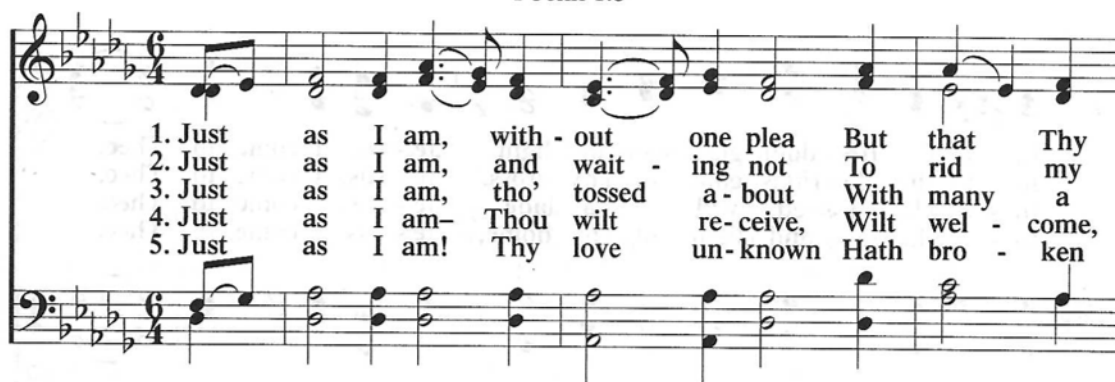
Lift your eyes and see his face, feel his grace forever.

May the Lord mighty God bless and keep you forever.

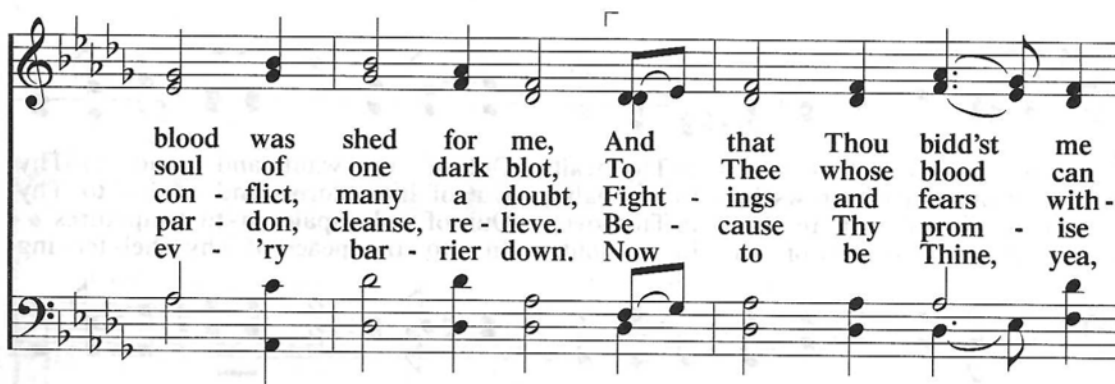
Just As I Am

343

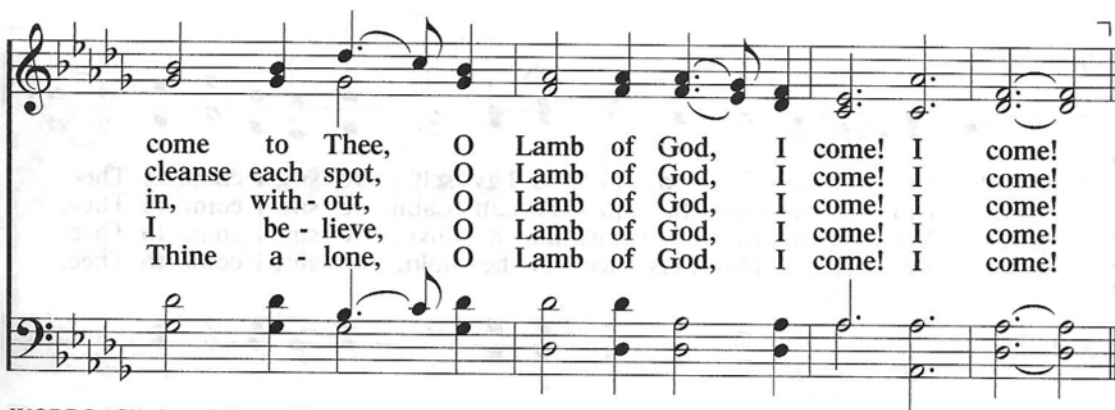
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins.
1 John 1:9



1. Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2. Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my
3. Just as I am, tho' tossed a - bout With many a
4. Just as I am— Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt wel - come,
5. Just as I am! Thy love un - known Hath bro - ken



blood was shed for me, And that Thou bidd'st me
soul of one dark blot, To Thee whose blood can
con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
par - don, cleanse, re - lieve. Be - cause Thy prom - ise
ev - 'ry bar - rier down. Now to be Thine, yea,



come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

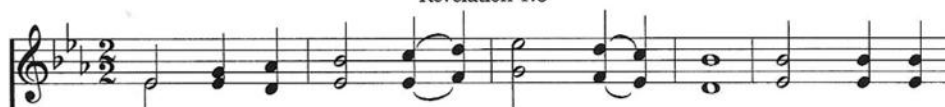
WORDS: Charlotte Elliott, 1834
MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1849

WOODWORTH
L.M.

Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go 781

Christ has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father.

Revelation 1:6



1. Forth in the peace of Christ we go; Christ to the
 2. King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings; King - ship with
 3. Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth- This world of
 4. Christ's are our lips; His word we speak. Proph - ets are
 5. We are the Church; Christ bids us show That in the



world with joy we bring; Christ in our minds, Christ
 Him His ser - vants gain. With Christ, the Ser - vant -
 time to con - se - crate, This world of sin by
 we whose deeds pro - claim Christ's truth in love that
 Church all na - tions find Their hearth and home where



on our lips, Christ in our hearts- the world's true King.
 lord of all, Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign.
 grace to heal, Christ's world in Christ to re - cre - ate.
 we may be Christ in the world, to spread Christ's name.
 Christ re - stores True peace, true love to all man - kind.

WORDS: James Quinn SJ, 1969
 MUSIC: John Hatton, 1793

DUKE STREET
 L.M.

This tune in a lower key, No. 271

Words © 1969 James Quinn SJ. Reprinted by permission of Geoffrey Chapman, a division of Cassell PLC.