

# WEST BERLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1876  
Julia Roll, Organist

Dr. Robert J. Gustafson, Pastor

Tom Roll, Liturgist  
Amy Martindale, Principal Vocalist

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**December 15, 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.**

**ADVENT LITURGY – JOY**

Tom Roll & Amy Martindale

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name of the most high God.

**P: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

L: Proclaim the mercy of the One who comes as one of us.

**P: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

L: Trust and do not be afraid.

**P: The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

L: With joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.

**P: The Lord is our strength and our salvation. Hallelujah! Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

As John the Baptist called the people to repent, as Jesus calls us now, we turn to the one who is both judge and savior, trusting that repentance opens the door to new life, and that peace beyond all measure has been promised to us. Let us confess our sins.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**The Lord is near. In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, you are forgiven. The Lord has taken away the judgments against you. Do not worry. Live in peace.

**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**

Isaiah 12:2-6

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.” <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say on that day: “Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

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

**YOUTH MESSAGE**

The Real Thing

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Elizabeth Fisher Accompanied by Julia Roll

### **SECOND READING** Luke 3:7-18

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

**SERMON** "What Then Should We Do?"

**HYMN** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" No. 81 (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** "Of the Father's Love Begotten" No. 164 (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.**

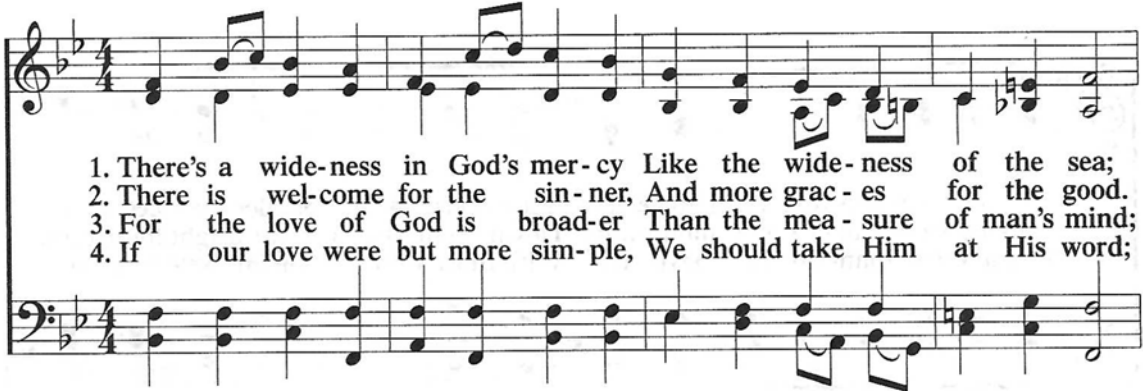
**Lift your eyes and see his face, feel his grace forever.**

**May the Lord mighty God bless and keep you forever.**

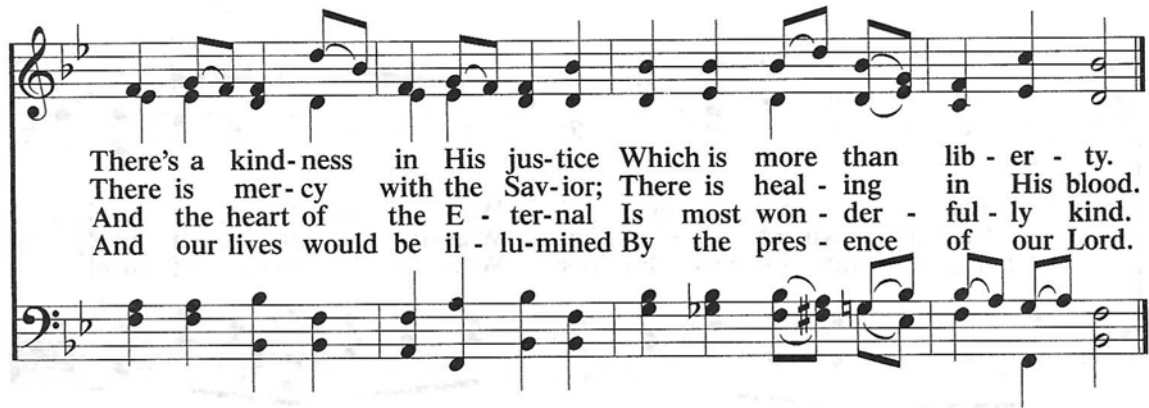
# There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

81

*As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*  
Psalm 103:12



1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy Like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner, And more grac-es for the good.  
3. For the love of God is broad-er Than the mea-sure of man's mind;  
4. If our love were but more sim-ple, We should take Him at His word;



There's a kind-ness in His jus-tice Which is more than lib-er-ty.  
There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; There is heal-ing in His blood.  
And the heart of the E-ter-nal Is most won-der-ful-ly kind.  
And our lives would be il-lu-mined By the pres-ence of our Lord.

## Of the Father's Love Begotten

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God. John 1:1*

*Unison*

1. Of the Fa-ther's love be-got-ten, Ere the worlds be-gan to be,  
2. O that birth for-ev-er bless-ed, When the Vir-gin, full of grace,  
3. O ye heights of heav'n, a-dore Him; An-gel hosts, His prais-es sing.  
4. Christ, to Thee with God the Fa-ther, And, O Ho-ly Ghost, to Thee,

He is Al-pha and O-me-ga- He the Source, the End-ing He,  
By the Ho-ly Ghost con-ceiv-ing, Bare the Sav-ior of our race;  
Pow'rs, do-min-ions, bow be-fore Him, And ex-tol our God and King.  
Hymn and chant and high thanks-giv-ing And un-wear-ied prais-es be:

Of the things that are, that have been, And that fu-ture  
And the Babe, the world's Re-deem-er, First re-vealed His  
Let no tongue on earth be si-lent, Ev-'ry voice in  
Hon-or, glo-ry, and do-min-ion, And e-ter-nal

years shall see, Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!  
sa-cred face, Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!  
con-cert ring, Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!  
vic-to-ry, Ev-er-more and ev-er-more! A-men.

WORDS: Aurelius C. Prudentius, 4th c.; tr. by John M. Neale, 1854, and  
Henry W. Baker, 1859  
MUSIC: Plainsong, 13th c.; arr. by C. Winfred Douglas, 1916

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
8.7.8.7.8.7.7.