

# WEST BERLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1876  
Julia Roll, Organist

Dr. Robert J. Gustafson, Pastor

David Howell, Liturgist  
Amy Martindale, Principal Vocalist

**2nd Sunday of Advent**

**December 8, 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** God is Good. **All the time.** & All the time. **God is good.**

**ADVENT LITURGY – PEACE** Lou Ann Shy and Kathy McCreary

**PRELUDE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: John came out of the wilderness to preach repentance; he preaches to us still.

P: **Make straight the paths we now walk and prepare the way for God's reign of justice and love.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Saints, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. Grateful for the promise of joy and of peace, let us share that peace with one another.

**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**

Malachi 3:1-4 The Coming Messenger

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

**YOUTH MESSAGE**

Fanfare for a King

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

### **SECOND READING**    Philipians 1:3-11    Paul's Prayer for the Philipians

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God for every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy <sup>5</sup>for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

### **SERMON**                    "Finding the Resilience"

**HYMN**                    "We Are Called to Be God's People"                    No. 779                    (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**                    "Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus"                    No. 157                    (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.**

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

# We Are Called to Be God's People

779

*You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,  
a people belonging to God. 1 Peter 2:9*

1. We are called to be God's peo - ple, Show - ing by our lives His grace,  
2. We are called to be God's ser - vants, Work - ing in His world to - day;  
3. We are called to be God's proph - ets, Speak - ing for the truth and right;

One in heart and one in spir - it, Sign of hope for all the race.  
Tak - ing His own task up - on us, All His sa - cred words o - bey.  
Stand - ing firm for god - ly jus - tice, Bring - ing e - vil in - to light.

Let us show how He has changed us, And re - made us as His own;  
Let us rise, then, to His sum - mons, Ded - i - cate to Him our all,  
Let us seek the cour - age need - ed, Our high call - ing to ful - fill,

Let us share our life to - geth - er As we shall a - round His throne.  
That we may be faith - ful ser - vants, Quick to an - swer now His call.  
That we all may know the bless - ing Of the do - ing of God's will.

# 157 Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

*He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom  
for the captives. Isaiah 61:1*

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy  
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a Child and

peo - ple free. From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us  
yet a King, Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy

find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's Strength and Con - so -  
gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art - Dear De - sire of  
Spir - it, Rule in all our hearts a - lone. By Thine all - suf -

ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart!  
fi - cient mer - it, Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.