

WEST BERLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1876
Julia Roll, Organist

Dr. Robert J. Gustafson, Pastor

Tom Roll, Liturgist
Amy Martindale, Principal Vocalist

4th Sunday Epiphany and Communion

February 2, 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: From the very beginning, God calls us.

P: God sets us apart with a meaning and a purpose.

L: We come up with excuses to avoid our calls, for we are afraid.

P: But God reassures us in many and various ways through the course of our days.

L: Even if we are brought to the edge of a cliff,

P: God is with us and sustains us.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God calls us to speak the truth, even when it is difficult, to others but also to ourselves. Confessing our sin in prayer, we dare to speak the truth about ourselves to God, who desires to deliver us and to cast out fear.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our Deliverer, we confess that we are too reluctant to speak and to live according to your truth. We grow comfortable with the way things are, passively condoning injustice. We see ourselves as “insiders,” excluding those we consider “outsiders.” We find it easier to pluck up and pull down, to destroy and overthrow, than to build and to plant. Forgive us, O God, for being timid disciples. Empty us of fear and shame, and fill us with love that is humble and patient and kind. We pray this in the name of the One who humbled himself, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God has loved us since the beginning, and God’s love for us will never end. Do not fear, therefore, but have faith in God’s steadfast love, God’s healing power, and God’s ability to make all things new.

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 71

Prayer for Lifelong Protection and Help

¹In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. ²In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me. ³Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. ⁴Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. ⁵For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. ⁶From my birth I have leaned upon you, my protector since my mother’s womb. My praise is continually of you.

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

YOUTH MESSAGE No Place Like Home

SPECIAL MUSIC Elizabeth Fisher, Violin

SECOND READING Luke 4:21-30

²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.' " ²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

SERMON "Scripture Fulfilled in Your Hearing"

HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory" No. 720 (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.

COMMUNION

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

God of Grace and God of Glory

*You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light. Ephesians 5:8*

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple pour Thy
2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as - sail His
3. Cure the peo - ple's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to Thy con -
4. Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; Gird our lives that they may

pow'r. Crown Thine an - cient Church - 's sto - ry; Bring her bud to
ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us; Free our hearts to
trol. Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness - Rich in things and
be Ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es In the fight to

glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age For the
work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age For the
poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, Lest we
set men free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age That we

fac - ing of this hour, (of this hour,) For the fac - ing of this hour.
liv - ing of these days, (of these days,) For the liv - ing of these days.
miss Thy king dom's goal, (king - dom's goal,) Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal.
fail not man nor Thee! (man nor Thee!) That we fail not man nor Thee!

WORDS: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930
MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
8.7.8.7.8.7.

This tune in a higher key, No. 96

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.