

WEST BERLIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1876
Julia Roll, Organist

Dr. Robert J. Gustafson, Pastor

Jerianne Gooding, Liturgist
Amy Martindale, Principal Vocalist

4th Sunday of Lent

March 30, 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: Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. **P: Amen.**

L: Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven. **P: Thanks be to God.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

As a parent welcomes home a wayward child, so God embraces all who return in true repentance. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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 32

The Joy of Forgiveness

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. ²Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ³While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. ⁶Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. ⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. ⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. ⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. ¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. ¹¹Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

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

YOUTH MESSAGE Theme God's love and forgiveness.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SECOND READING Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ¹¹ ... “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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

SERMON “Two Brothers – Almost Always Means Trouble”

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 “Just As I am” No. 343 (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.

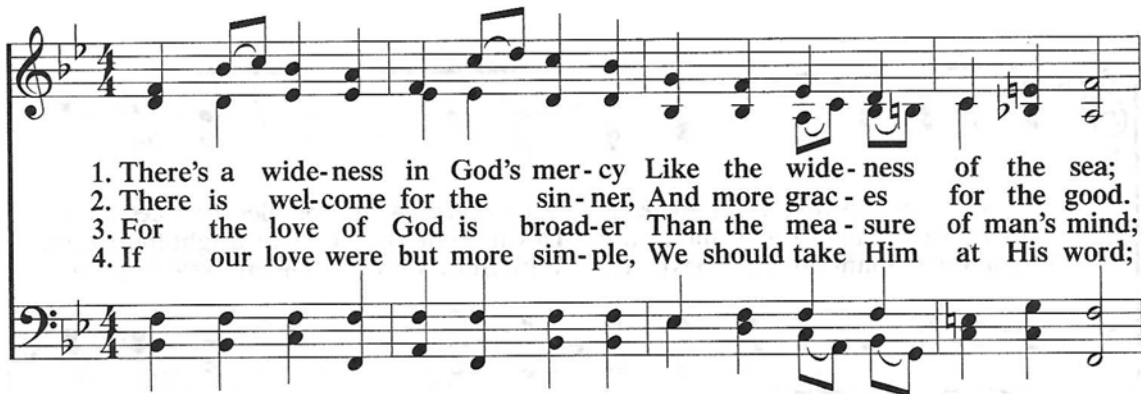
Lift your eyes and see his face, feel his grace forever.

May the Lord mighty God bless and keep you forever.

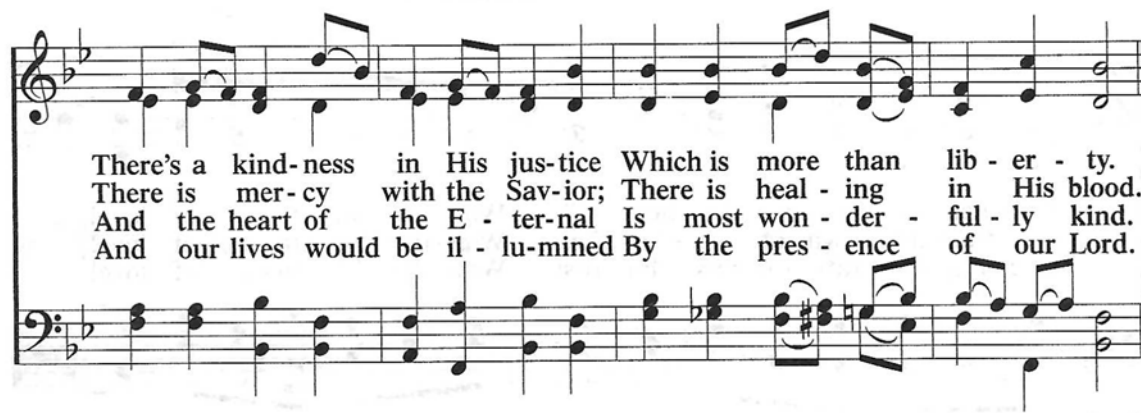
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

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;

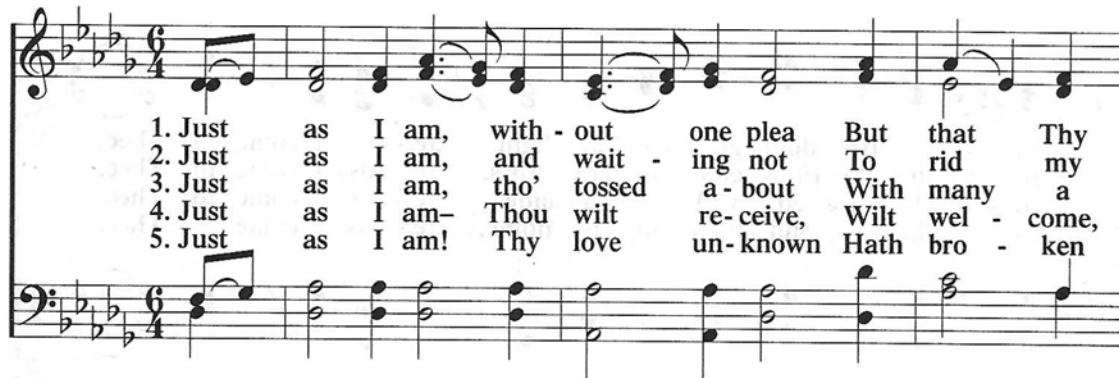


There's a kind-ness in His jus-tice Which is more than lib-er-ty.
There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; There is heal-ing in His blood.
And the heart of the E-ter-nal Is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
And our lives would be il-lu-mined By the pres-ence of our Lord.

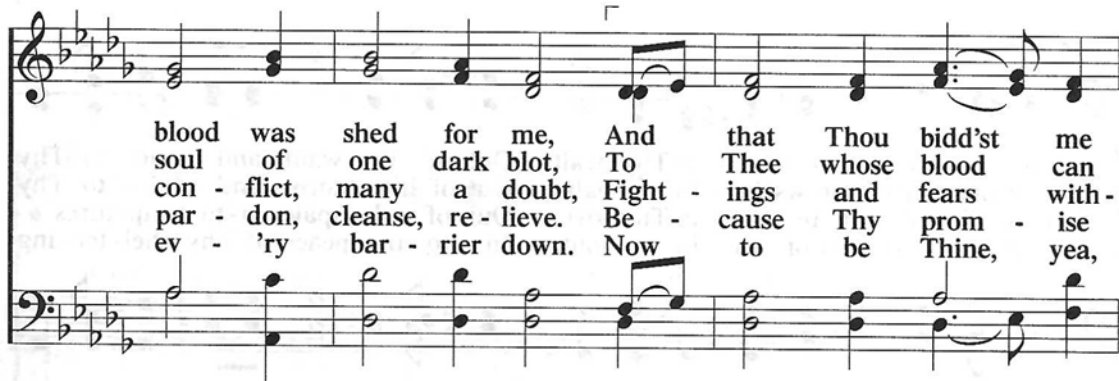
Just As I Am

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.