

AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

8505 Church Street | Crystal Lake, IL 60012 | 815-459-1132

www.rclpc.org



John Dillon, Pastor
PALM SUNDAY
April 5, 2020 | 10:00

Worship Leaders Today
Message and Prayers: Rev. John Dillon
Music Leaders: Sherri Dees and Anthony Jay Houston

WE GATHER IN GRACE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On Palm Sunday so many years ago,
the people saw Jesus and asked,

All: who is this?

One: In worship, we respond. In worship, we declare:

All: Jesus is a miracle worker and healer.

One: Jesus is a teacher and preacher.

All: Jesus is our light in the darkness.

One: Jesus is our source of love.

All: Jesus is our path in the wilderness.

One: So may we lay down our hearts
like they laid down their coats.

All: Let us worship God.

HYMN 199: FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT

Vs 1 **Filled with excitement, all the happy throng
spread cloaks and branches on the city streets.
There in the distance they begin to see,
there on a donkey comes the Savior Christ.**

(Refrain)

**From every corner a thousand voices sing
praise to the One who comes in the name of God.
Our acclamation breaks forth in shouts of praise,
our triumphant song of joy:
“Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!
Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!”**

Vs 2 **As in that entrance to Jerusalem,
hosannas we will sing to Jesus Christ,
to our Redeemer who still calls today,
asks us to follow with our love and faith. *(Refrain)***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Palm Sunday begins with the crowds adoring you, raising their voices to welcome you and praise you as the new king of kings, a son of King David.

Loving God, we gather here today, a crowd of people drawn to this story of a man whose life still challenges the way we live and the way we think about the world.

All: Lord, hear our cry!

One: Our eyes see a world that has real beauty within it, our ears hear the melodic music filling our every waking moment.

We sense a presence that we cannot define, cannot fully understand, and yet we feel drawn to.

All: Lord, hear our cry!

One: Forgive us for the times we have ignored your presence and failed to listen to your still small voice within us.

Forgive us for the times we have followed the crowd, pulled and swayed by people who would persuade us to seek to fulfil our own will and desires before the needs of others.

Forgive us for the times we have failed to be true disciples, when we have run away from our commitments and allowed fear to turn us from the right path.

God in your mercy, forgive us once more, renew us and refresh us with your Holy Spirit. Give us a desire and commitment to follow in the way of the cross as Jesus did.

All: Lord, hear our cry!

SUNG RESPONSE: YOU ARE THE LORD, GIVER OF MERCY!

(GTG 437)

All (sing): You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING THE PEACE

One: Be assured Jesus rides into our lives this and every day,
bringing forgiveness,
and the eternal peace that only Christ can bring.
The peace of the Lord be with you;

All: **and also with you.**

**The peace of the Lord be with you;
and also with you.**

All (sing): (GTG 597) SANNA, SANNANINA

Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna.

Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna.

Sanna, sanna, sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna.

Sanna, sanna, sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna.

WE GROW IN GRACE

WEE WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING: [Matthew 21:1-11](#)

VOICES OF THE CROWD

Voice 1: I heard he was a carpenter's son from Nazareth.
Can anything good come from Nazareth?

Voice 2: I heard he was related to John the Baptist,
and I heard he can heal people.
Do you think he can heal me?

Voice 3: Who is he? I heard he talks to gentiles and tax collectors
and to children and women! Seriously, who is this?

Voice 4: I heard he's the Son of David.
I heard he's the one we've been waiting for.

Voice 5: I heard he was born of a Virgin, in a stable.
Who is this? Why is he riding a donkey?

Voice 6: How does he have so many followers?
Do you think Caesar knows that a man from Nazareth
has been welcomed with such a large parade?
Who is this?

Voice 7: I don't know who he is,
but I've heard he's gracious and kind.
He fed five thousand and he helped the blind man see.

Voice 8: Do you think he sees me?

Final voice: I heard he can save all of us. Who is this?

MESSAGE

“Charles, Nadia & Jesus”

Rev. John Dillon

“SANTO” from *Caribbean Mass*

Glenn McClure

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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.

OFFERING

Your gifts to RCLPC matter now more than ever! Our expenses continue, and since we won't be passing offering plates each Sunday, your online or mailed giving is essential. If you are able to give online, we ask that you do so now through our [online giving program](#). We are checking the mail, if you prefer to mail in your check. However you are able to give, your generosity in this time makes a big difference!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE GO IN GRACE

TRAVELING THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

JL Bell

**Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?
Fêted by noise and branches
And banners hanging from every tree;
Cheered on by frenzied people,
Puzzled by what they hear and see:
Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?**

**Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?
Partnered by staunch supporters
Who, come the dark, will turn and flee;
Nourished by faith and patience,
Neither of which is plain to see:
Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?**

SENDING

CIRCLE OF GRACE

Ken Stewart

**We gather in grace, where friends in Christ abide.
We gather in grace, with hearts and arms that are open wide.
We gather in the ever-widening circle of God's grace.
We gather in grace, God's holy grace.**

**We grow in grace, when we hear The Word.
We grow in grace, when we practice what we've heard.
We grow within the ever-widening circle of God's grace.
We grow in grace, God's holy grace.**

**We go in grace, in the footsteps of our Lord.
We go in grace, to be God's hands working in the world.
We go to spread the ever-widening circle of God's grace.
We go in grace, God's holy grace.**

We gather, we grow, and we go in grace.

*We gather in grace, we grow in grace, we go in grace...
The journey continues in an ever-widening circle of grace.*

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SANTO FROM GLEN MCCLURE'S CARIBBEAN MASS