

AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

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“Raise your voice... do not be afraid.” — The Messenger
“I Believe in God: Ode to Joy”

John Dillon, Pastor
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020 | 10:00

Worship Leaders Today
Message and Prayers: Rev. John Dillon
Music Leaders: Sherri Dees, Anthony Jay Houston,
Steve Connell, Scott Iddings, and Sarah Metivier-Schadt
Readers and Candle Lighter: Tiffany and Jacalyn Hess

WE GATHER

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

ADVENT PRAYER

One: The loneliness of fear. The invisibility of the next step. The yearning for presence.

Pastor: Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of the depths of joy.

Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle or even when we are not sure of your presence, ignite the flame of joy within us,

One: ... that we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out.

Pastor: Help us face the silence of unknowing and embrace it as the pregnant pause before joyful new beginnings.

Pastor: You are invited to light your Advent candle of Joy at this time.

MY SOUL CRIES OUT WITH A JOYFUL SHOUT

GTG 100

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

Refrain:

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

**Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.**

**Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

**Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ, the Peace of Joy be with each of us
this day and for evermore. Peace be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WE PROCLAIM

CHILDREN'S TIME TO SHINE: *This Little Light of Mine*

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 57:14-19 (CEB)

THE WITNESS OF MUSIC:

J.S. Bach

QUIA RESPEXIT FROM MAGNIFICAT BWV 243

Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae;

For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.

ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent

Behold, from henceforth, I will be called blessed.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:1-4,26-56 (CEB)

MESSAGE

"Joyful, Joyful"

Rev. John Dillon

WE RESPOND

LITANY OF BELIEF

Pastor: I believe that we have sometimes been silent in the face
of mistreatment AND

All: **I believe that we are capable of raising our voices
and insisting on goodness for all.**

Pastor: I believe that we have been afraid of feeling deeply,
making our joy small AND

All: **I believe that the deep joy of community
can always be present, even in hard times.**

Pastor: I believe that sometimes we wonder
if we can make a difference AND

All: **I believe that small acts of kindness and help
do make a real difference.**

Pastor: We believe, even when we are discouraged.

All: We believe, that when we are discouraged, raising our voices for fair treatment for all will offer us joy.

PRAYERS IN THE STILLNESS: "THOU SHALT KNOW HIM" Mark Sirett

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: OPPORTUNITIES TO "FILL THE NIGHT" WITH JOY

DOXOLOGY: [to the tune of "Give Thanks" GTG 647]

**Believe, with a joyful heart!
Believe, and shine your light!
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!**

**Believe, with a joyful heart!
Believe, and shine your light!
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!**

**And now let the weak say, "We are strong;"
let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what our God has done for us."**

**And now let the weak say, "We are strong;"
let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what our God has done for us."**

**Believe, with a joyful heart!
Believe, and shine your light!
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!
Believe!**

WE GO FORTH

CAROL OF RESISTANCE: LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD GTG 79

**Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.**

Refrain:

**The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.**

**Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes. (*Refrain*)**

**Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes. (*Refrain*)**

**The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.**

BENEDICTION

HAND BELL BENEDICTION

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