

AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

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www.rclpc.org



“Raise your voice... do not be afraid.” — The Messenger
“I Believe in the Light: Illuminating Peace”

John Dillon, Pastor
4th Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020 | 10:00

Worship Leaders Today

Message and Prayers: Rev. John Dillon

*Music Leaders: Sherri Dees, Anthony Jay Houston,
Scott Iddings, Dan Gilman, Al Popp, and Brendan Baser*
Readers and Candle Lighter: Mike and Anna Griswold

WE GATHER

PRELUDE MUSIC

CAROL OF THE BELLS
(played by Brendan Baser)

Mykola Leontovych

WELCOME

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

ADVENT PRAYER

Pastor: Holy One, we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of peace on earth.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when we aren't sure
that goodwill among us can be found,
ignite the flame of peace within us,

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

Pastor: Help us face the pain of life
and embrace the assurance that light is already here,
and always coming.

JOY TO THE WORLD

GTG 134

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ 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 9:2-7 (CEB)

SUNG RESPONSE:

GTG 113

All: **Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

GOSPEL READING

John 1:1-18 (CEB)

SUNG RESPONSE:

GTG 113

All: **Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

MESSAGE *"The Good News Goes Viral*"*

by Gwynne Watkins

Affirmation of Belief

All: **We believe in the Living God
who is directly involved in the affairs of the world.
We believe that God chooses the meek and the poor
to shame the proud and the rich.
We believe in the incarnate Word,
leaping in a woman's womb, cradled in poverty.
We believe in Jesus, true son of Mary,
true Son of God,**

**who came among us in weakness,
that we might come to know the profound strength
available to common people
who turn to God in trust and with love.
Yes, my friends, this we truly believe.**

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

GTG 136

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

WE RESPOND

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 PEACE

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

Believe, with a peaceful heart!

Believe, and shine your light!

Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!

Believe, with a peaceful 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 peaceful heart!

Believe, and shine your light!

Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!

Believe!

WE GO FORTH

GLORY (LET THERE BE PEACE)

Matt Maher, Chris Stevens,
Rachel Propadic

**One star burns in the darkness,
shines with a promise Emmanuel
One child born in the stillness,
living within us, Emmanuel**

**We're singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let there be peace
We're singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let it start in me
One voice speaks for the voiceless
Hope for the hopeless, Emmanuel
One love brings us together,
now and forever, Emmanuel**

**We're singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let there be peace
We're singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let it start in me**

**Do not be afraid,
His love is strong enough to save us
Nothing stands in the way
His love is strong enough to lead us**

**Do not be afraid,
His love is strong enough to save us
Nothing stands in the way
His love is strong enough to lead us**

**We're singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let there be peace
We're singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let it start in me**

**We're singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let there be peace
We're singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let it start in me**

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.*

***Cast for “*The Good News Goes Viral*” Christmas Pageant**

Narrator:	Anna Larsen
Angel 2:	Brynn LeFevre
Mary:	Katharine Sowa
Angel Choir:	Griswold Family
Joseph:	Samuel Viner
Innkeeper:	Jim Pracht
Magi:	Koronkiewicz Family
Elizabeth:	Colleen Cameron
Angel 1:	Iona Dillon
Donkey:	Daniel Hess
Emperor:	Cara Koronkiewicz
Shepherds:	Baser Family