

AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



## Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

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

[www.rclpc.org](http://www.rclpc.org)



***“Raise your voice... do not be afraid.” — The Messenger***  
***“I Believe in the Sun: Hope for Tomorrow”***

**John Dillon, Pastor**  
**1st Sunday of Advent**  
**November 29, 2020 | 10:00**

*Worship Leaders Today*  
*Message and Prayers: Rev. John Dillon*  
*Music Leaders: Anthony Jay Houston, Steve Connell,*  
*Mike Griswold and Scott Iddings*  
*Readers and Candle Lighter: Talia and Camden Koronkiewicz*

# WE GATHER

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

ADVENT PRAYER

Pastor: Holy One, we thank you  
for the glimpses we catch  
of your gift of untiring hope.  
Even in the midst of fear,  
of challenge, of struggle—  
even when our view is obscured by clouds of doubt,  
ignite the flame of hope within us,

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

Pastor: Help us face this bleak night of the soul  
and embrace it as a womb of rebirth.

**All: Amen.**

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

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

GTG 82

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

PASSING THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ, the Peace of Hope  
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 40:1-11 (CEB)

THE WITNESS OF MUSIC:

By Mark A. Miller

"I BELIEVE, EVEN WHEN"

Performed by ULV Chamber Singers

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-15 (CEB)

MESSAGE

*"Hope for the Hopeless"*

Rev. John Dillon

**WE RESPOND**

LITANY OF BELIEF

Pastor: I believe that we depend too much on our own vision  
AND

**All: I believe that we must look to God's vision without  
doubt or fear.**

Pastor: I believe that we have settled for "life as it is" AND

**All: I believe that we have a Kingdom message of  
challenge and change.**

Pastor: I believe that God is at work for good  
and with power even in this present time AND

**All: I believe that we have a God given opportunity  
to be courageous and sure.**

Pastor: We believe, even when we are discouraged.

**All: We believe, that when we are discouraged, we must still be a people who live and witness hope in Christ.**

PRAYERS IN THE STILLNESS: "STILLNESS"

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 HOPE

DOXOLOGY: "FILL THE NIGHT" WITH HOPE

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

**Believe, with a hopeful heart!  
Believe, and shine your light!  
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong;"  
let the poor say, "I am rich  
because of what our God has done for us."  
Believe!**

## **WE GO FORTH**

CAROL OF RESISTANCE: I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

**I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
their old familiar carols play,  
and wild and sweet the words repeat  
of peace on earth, good will to men.  
I thought how, as the day had come,  
the belfries of all Christendom  
had rolled along th' unbroken song  
of peace on earth, good will to men.**

**And in despair I bowed my head:  
“There is no peace on earth,” I said.  
“For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
of peace on earth, good will to men.**

**Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;  
the wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
with peace on earth, good will to men.**

**Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
the world revolved from night to day  
a voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
of peace on earth, good will to men.**

#### BENEDICTION

Pastor: We wait for justice  
but we do not wait to work for change;  
We wait for restored health  
but we do not wait to work to heal;  
We wait for wholeness  
but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;  
We wait for peace  
but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred.  
And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news  
that the sun still shines even on cloudy days,  
fill the night left by sadness with messages of hope.  
Go into your lives humming the tunes  
that keep that hope alive in you  
and that spur you on in your work of justice  
and reconciliation.  
Raise your voices and repeat after me...  
“do not be afraid!”  
“do not be afraid!”

**All: Amen!**

#### 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.*

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