

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)



**John Dillon, Pastor**  
**23rd Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 8, 2020 | 10:00**

*Worship Leaders Today*

*Message and Prayers: Rev. Fred Neuschel*

*Music Leaders: Sherri Dees, Anthony Jay Houston, Steve Connell*

*Liturgists: Charlie Doll and Ann Legg*

# WE GATHER IN GRACE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 96*)

One: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth.

**All: Sing to the Lord, praise his name;  
proclaim his salvation day after day.**

One: Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

**All: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
he is to be feared above all gods.**

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

GTG 366

**Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling;  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion;  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation;  
enter every trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit;  
let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*praying Psalm 27*)

One: Lord, to be awake and aware in our world,  
we cannot avoid the reality of dark forces,  
or deny the weakness of our defenses.

**All: But with the psalmist let us proclaim:  
“The Lord is my light and my salvation —  
whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold  
of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?”**

One: When our world is rocked by persistent divisiveness,  
natural calamity, and poverty of soul and body,  
we feel we are being overwhelmed.

**All: But with the psalmist let us proclaim:  
“Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;  
though war break out against me,  
even then I will be confident.”**

One: When we look to the future it is with a dread that  
there will not be a place there for us and for our children.

**All: But with the psalmist let us proclaim:  
“This only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of  
the Lord all the days of my life.... For in the day of  
trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling....”**

One: So let us look to ourselves seeking courage  
in the face of fear, forgiveness for our shortcomings,  
and kindness in all our acts.

**All: And with the psalmist we pray:  
“Hear my voice when I call Lord; be merciful to me  
and answer me. My heart says of you, ‘Seek his face!’  
Your face, Lord I will seek.” Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE (*Psalms 27*)

One: In the life, death and resurrection of our Lord,  
God has shown by example his steadfast presence.  
Healing, teaching, forgiving, loving;  
our Lord is the bringer of reconciliation and peace.

All: **So with the psalmist we proclaim:  
“I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness  
of the Lord in the land of the living.”**

One: Yes! “Wait for the Lord;  
be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.”

All: **Yes! I will wait for the Lord!**

SUNG RESPONSE: IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL GTG 654

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;  
in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God; do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.**

## WE GROW IN GRACE

WEE WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 25:1-13

MESSAGE “*Waiting*” Rev. Fred Neuschel

FAITH BEGINS BY LETTING GO GTG 684

**Faith begins by letting go,  
giving up what had seemed sure,  
taking risks and pressing on,  
though the way feels less secure:  
pilgrimage both right and odd,  
trusting all our life to God.**

**Faith endures by holding on,  
keeping memory's roots alive  
so that hope may bear its fruit;  
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,  
not through merit we possess  
but by God's great faithfulness.**

**Faith matures by reaching out,  
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,  
sharing struggles, living prayer,  
binding up the broken parts;  
till we find the commonplace  
ripe with witness to God's grace.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### 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: MY LORD WHAT A MORNING                      arr. Emma Lou Diemer

*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

LET US BUILD A HOUSE

GTG 301

**Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
all are welcome; all are welcome;  
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
all are welcome; all are welcome;  
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine, and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
all are welcome; all are welcome;  
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
all are welcome; all are welcome;  
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
all are welcome; all are welcome;  
all are welcome in this place.**

*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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