

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**  
**19th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 11, 2020 | 10:00**

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

# WE GATHER IN GRACE

GATHERING MUSIC: PLAY BEFORE GOD

by Bobby Fisher

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from the hymn. text by Fred Pratt Green* )

One: "Lord, we have come at your own invitation,  
chosen by you, to be counted your friends;  
yours is the strength that sustains dedication;  
ours, a commitment we know never ends."

**All: Let us worship our generous Lord.**

GATHER US IN (*verses 1, 2 and 4*)

GTG 401

**Here in this place the new light is streaming;  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young; our lives are a mystery.  
We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history,  
called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;  
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away:  
here in this place the new light is shining;  
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever;  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Merciful Savior, the parable of the wedding banquet reminds us of your ever-gracious invitation to be part of your family, to receive the gift of your salvation, to respond to your call to follow you.

**All: We confess that far too often we act like ungrateful guests.**

One: We allow other priorities to crowd you out. Our addiction to busyness leaves us no time to celebrate with you. We erect other gods that require our attention and loyalty. In our vain attempts to look "successful" we polish the veneer of our lives without attending to our deepest needs and longings, including our need and longing for you.

**All: Forgive us, we pray, and restore us to health and wholeness. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

One: What amazing love is this that God never cuts us off from compassion and mercy? We are loved, we are forgiven, we are given a seat of honor at the banquet.

Friends, this is Good News! Alleluia!

Let us accept and share the Peace of Christ.

SUNG RESPONSE: (*verse 3*)

GTG 803

**The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;  
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;  
no more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.**

## WE GROW IN GRACE

WEE WORSHIP

A KING PLANNED A PARTY

words by Carolyn Gillette\*  
tune: Ashgrove, GTG 37

**A king planned a party — a feast, rich and hearty.  
He sent invitations to all of his guests.  
So what could be better than getting a letter  
And being invited and welcomed and blessed?  
"My work needs attention," said one, "Not to mention,  
My family is growing. There's so much to do."  
"My farm," said another, "Is big, and — oh, brother —  
I'm busy with hobbies I want to pursue."**

**"The wedding is ready! My guests are not worthy!"  
The king told his servants when nobody came.  
So go search the alleys, the hills and the valleys,  
And bring in the poor and the blind and the lame."  
That day there was singing and halls that were ringing  
With laughter and joy in that wonderful place.  
For those who attended knew how they depended  
Upon the king's generous mercy and grace.**

**O God, you invite us! You seek to delight us.  
Your table is ready for those who say "Yes!"  
Do we make excuses when you want to choose us  
To sit at your table, forgiven and blessed?  
And, Lord, as you welcome us into your kingdom,  
May we reach to welcome the world by your grace.  
You love the outsider. Now may we reach wider  
To welcome the world with your loving embrace.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 106:1-6,19-23 and Matthew 22:1-14

MESSAGE *"Gratitude is Hospitality"* Rev. John Dillon

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

GTG 39

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

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: INTERMEZZO OP. 76 NO. 7

Johannes Brahms  
performed by Ann Legg

*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

CIRCLE OF GRACE

words and music by Ken Stewart  
adapted from the RCLPC mission statement

**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.**

SENDING

PRAYER OF ST. PATRICK

by John Rutter

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ above me, Christ beneath me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

*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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\*TUNE: TRADITIONAL WELSH MELODY ("LET ALL THINGS NOW LIVING")

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