

AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

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

www.rclpc.org



John Dillon, Pastor
3rd Sunday of Easter
April 18, 2021 | 10:00

Worship Leaders Today

Message and Prayers: Pastor Fred Neuschel

Music Leaders: Sherri Dees, Anthony Jay Houston,

Scott Iddings, and Mike Griswold

Technical Director: Steve Connell

Liturgist: Tom Lafontaine

WE GATHER IN GRACE

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CHRIST HAS RISEN WHILE EARTH SLUMBERS

GTG 231

**Christ has risen while earth slumbers;
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor:
Christ is risen, God is here!**

**Christ has risen for the people
whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
can't be silenced by the tomb.**

**Christ has risen and for ever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present
making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.**

A PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Pastor: In amazement and wonder, O God, we turn again
to the good news of the resurrection of Jesus.

**All: We come to worship in order to celebrate his life
and to join our life with his.**

Pastor: As you raised him from the dead,

**All: raise in us the Spirit of his teaching, his healing,
his call to justice and his unreserved love.**

Pastor: As you raised him from the dead,

**All: raise our minds to seek the clarity of truth even,
and especially, when it challenges our own thinking.**

Pastor: As you raised him from the dead,

**All: raise our eyes so that we look beyond the boundaries of
our insular lives, and become aware of ways in which
we support and are supported by the lives of others.**

Pastor: As you raised him from the dead,

**All: raise our hands to the work of ministering to others,
and our feet to going to the places
where we are needed.**

Pastor: As you raised him from the dead, O Lord,

**All: raise us up to be Kingdom dwellers and Kingdom
builders in this life and the next. Amen.**

A STATEMENT OF FAITH AND PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: Let us affirm the faith that assures us resurrection power
and brings us to celebrate our kingdom-life in Christ.

**All: We believe that Jesus Christ
is the risen and reigning Lord.
We recall how he greeted his fearful and doubting
disciples after they heard of his resurrection.
“Peace be with you,” he said.**

**But his peace is not the warm and fuzzy feeling of a full
stomach and a sedate mind. His peace is the assurance
that while the world is a confusing mixture of suffering
and triumph, loss and renewal, death and new life,
we are in God’s hands, and the work of God’s kingdom
building is going on in our very midst.**

Pastor: So let us wish peace for each other,
not as the world defines peace, but as the “peace that
passes understanding.” The peace that comes from
citizenship in the kingdom. Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

SUNG RESPONSE: MAY THE GOD OF HOPE GO WITH US

GTG 765

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

WE GROW IN GRACE

WEE WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING:

Luke 24:36-49

MESSAGE

"Joy, Disbelief and Wonder"

Rev. Fred Neuschel

NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISES

GTG 247

**Now the green blade rises
from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth
many days has lain;
love lives again,
that with the dead has been;
love is come again
like wheat arising green.**

**In the grave they laid him,
love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would
never wake again,
laid in the earth
like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again
like wheat arising green.**

**Forth he came at Easter
like the risen grain,
he that for three days
in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead,
my living Lord is seen;
love is come again
like wheat arising green.**

**When our hearts are wintry,
grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us
back to life again;
fields of our hearts
that dead and bare have been:
love is come again
like wheat arising green.**

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: ANTHEM

Paul Halley

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE GO IN GRACE

THINE IS THE GLORY

GTG 238

**Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.**

Refrain: **Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.**

**Lo! Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting. (*Refrain*)**

**No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. (*Refrain*)**

CHARGE AND 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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