

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)

AGAIN & AGAIN GOD MEETS US



**John Dillon, Pastor**  
**1st Sunday in Lent**  
**February 21, 2021 | 10:00**

*Worship Leaders Today*  
*Message and Prayers: Pastor John Dillon*  
*Music Leaders: Sherri Dees, Anthony Jay Houston, Dan Bretz,*  
*Jodie LeFevre and Scott Iddings*  
*Liturgist: Al Popp*

# WE GATHER IN GRACE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God meets us in the night—

**All: before the sun rises, before the wound heals,  
before there are answers, before there is closure.**

Pastor: God meets us in the light—

**All: where joy is effervescent,  
where laughter is contagious,  
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,  
and where people gather around the table.**

Pastor: God meets us at the threshold—

**All: at the edge of the water,  
at the beginning of the wilderness,  
at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.**

Pastor: And if God meets us in all those places,  
then surely God meets us in between—

**All: staying with us through the wilderness.**

Pastor: We are not alone. God is all around.

**All: Let us worship the God of the here and now.**

THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD

GTG 370

**This is my Father's world,  
and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.**

**This is my Father's world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
his hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world.  
O, let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.**

**This is my Father's world.  
The battle is not done:  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,  
and earth and heaven be one.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: Again and again, God meets us where we are.  
God's love knows no bounds, which is  
hard for us to understand and easy for us to forget.  
Therefore, in confession we remember together  
that we are not alone. And in a unified voice,  
we once again ask for God's grace in that holy reminder.  
God who meets us where we are—  
There is nowhere we can go that you are not.

**All: You were with Jesus at his baptism.  
You were with him in the wilderness,  
and even in between, you were there, saying aloud,  
“This is my beloved.”**

Pastor: We know that you are with us too—  
In the good, the bad, and everything in between—  
But so often we act like we are alone.

**All: Instead of coming to you with our hurt,  
we hold it in or cast it onto others.  
Instead of coming to you with our joy,  
we credit ourselves and offer you nothing.**

Pastor: How can we long for a deeper relationship with you  
while failing to live as you command?

**All: Forgive our self-centered ways. Remind us  
that in every breath, in every step, you are there.**

Pastor: You are the God who meets us where we are.

**All: Before and behind, above and below,  
within and around. Amen.**

KYRIE

GTG 577

**Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.  
Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**  
*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

Pastor: Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this:  
God is here. God sees you. God knows you.

Pastor: God meets you at the edge of every new beginning,  
and God calls you beloved.

**All: We are washed by the water. We are called beloved.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

Pastor: Forgiven and washed clean, let us share the  
Peace of Christ. Peace be with you!

**All: And also with you.**

SUNG RESPONSE: WE ARE FORGIVEN, LOVED AND FREE Paul M Vasile

**We are forgiven loved and free.**

**We're washed anew and then called to be  
hope for the weary, strength for the weak,  
with a blessing of peace for all,  
with a blessing of peace for all.**

## **WE GROW IN GRACE**

WEE WORSHIP

JESUS MEET US IN THE CENTER

Herbert Brokering  
Dave Brubeck

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 9:8-17 and Mark 1:9-15

MESSAGE

*"God Meets Us."*

Rev. John Dillon

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let us together affirm our faith.

**All: We believe in a God who is everywhere and right here,  
bigger than the sky and in the smallest details,  
all at once and in every moment.**

**We believe that God meets us where we are—  
in heartbreak and high hopes, around crowded tables  
and in quiet homes, in joy and in suffering,  
in loneliness and in connection, in sanctuaries  
and in living rooms, in marches and in waiting rooms.  
We believe that nothing we do or leave undone  
can distance us from God's love.**

**God is forever drawing us close and pulling us in.  
Again and again, God meets us where we are and  
invites us into wholeness.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

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: WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS arr Bill Carter

*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**

I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

GTG 775

**I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

SENDING

*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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