

AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

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

www.rclpc.org

AGAIN & AGAIN WE ARE CALLED TO LISTEN



John Dillon, Pastor
2nd Sunday in Lent
February 28, 2021 | 10:00

Worship Leaders Today

Message and Prayers: Pastor John Dillon

*Music Leaders: Sherri Dees, Anthony Jay Houston,
Steve Connell, Mike Griswold, Jodie LeFevre*

Liturgist: David Dees

WE GATHER IN GRACE

PRELUDE: BE STILL MY SOUL (In You I Rest) Kari Jobe & Jason Ingram

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Ruach is the Hebrew word for breath and Spirit.
So let us all breathe deep and
let the Spirit fill up your lungs with energy and love.

**All: Feel God within and trust that God
is as close as our very breath.**

Pastor: Listen. Listen deep. Listen far. Listen wide. Listen.

**All: The sound of your breath is the sound of the Divine.
This is a holy space. Let us worship God.**

SPIRIT, SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS

GTG 291

Refrain: **Spirit, spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness, calling and free.
Spirit, spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.**

**You moved on the waters;
you called to the deep;
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons
you called to each thing,
"Awake from your slumbers
and rise on your wings." (*refrain*)**

**You swept through the desert;
you stung with the sand;
and you goaded your people
with a law and a land.
When they were confounded
with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets
to open their eyes. (*refrain*)**

**You sang in a stable;
you cried from a hill;
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still.
And down in the city,
you called once again
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind. (*refrain*)**

**You call from tomorrow;
you break ancient schemes;
from the bondage of sorrow
the captives dream dreams.
Our women see visions;
our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions
your people arise. (*refrain*)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor: Often the first step to change is listening.

We have to listen to those we've hurt.

We have to listen to creation as she cries.

We have to listen to the voice of the oppressed,
if we ever hope to make things right.

So today, as we begin our prayer of confession,
we will start with a moment of silence—
a moment to listen.

And then we will pray together trusting that God is always
listening to us, and that God's ears listen with love.

So let us confess, silently and then together...

~ silence ~

Pastor: Listening God,

All: take what is closed in us and open it.

Take what is distracted in us and settle it.

Pastor: Listening God,

All: take what is hurting in us and hold it.

**Take any and all parts of us
that create distance from you.**

Pastor: Listening God,

All: Like Peter we argue what we don't know.

We fear what we cannot see.

And we almost always speak sooner than we listen.

Pastor: Listening God, open us, settle us, hold us, and forgive us.

All: We long to hear you more clearly.

We long to know you more fully.

With hope we pray, and with gratitude we confess.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

GTG 603

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy, have mercy on us.

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.

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: SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

GTG 288

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

WE GROW IN GRACE

WEE WORSHIP

ANTHEM

by Paul Halley

Sherri Dees, piano/Mike Griswold, organ

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Genesis 17:1-7,15-16 and Mark 8:31-38

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Sometimes our belief is confident,
like a child on a dance floor— u
unashamed and wildly genuine.

**All: Sometimes our belief is distant,
flickering and calling out to us
like a beacon calling us home.**

Pastor: Sometimes our belief shows up as passion,
guiding the way we vote, spend, give, live, trust, and hope.

**All: Sometimes our belief is like a shadow—
faith stitched to our heels, unmovable, unlosable,
a gift for winding journeys.**

Pastor: Sometimes our belief exists like growing pains.
We step forward. We fall back.

But again and again, Jesus invites us to listen,
to grow, and to take another step.

**All: So again and again, we speak these truths out loud:
We believe. Again and again, we believe.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SUNG RESPONSE: WE ARE LISTENING

Ben Johnston-Krause

We are listening, Lord, we are listening.

We are listening, Lord, we are listening.

**We are men, women, we are children, and Lord,
we are listening.**

So let the rains go, let the healing river flow.

Let justice roll like waters.

**Let the days begin, when new life enters in,
and let your Kingdom come.**

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: HOLD TO GOD'S UNCHANGING HAND

by Jennie B. Wilson (1906) arr. Paul Halley
Jodie LeFevre, vocalist

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

LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING

GTG 456

Leader: Listen,

All: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

Leader: Listen,

All: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

Leader: Jesus gave his mandate:

All: share the good news

Leader: that he came to save us

All: and set us free.

Leader: Listen,

All: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.

Leader: Let none be forgotten

All: throughout the world.

Leader: In the triune name of God

All: Go and baptize.

Leader: Listen,

**All: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.**

Leader: Help us to be faithful,

All: standing steadfast,

Leader: walking in your precepts,

All: led by your Word.

Leader: Listen,

**All: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.**

Leader: Listen,

**All: listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort, and joy.**

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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