

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
2nd Sunday of Christmas
January 3, 2021 | 10:00

Worship Leaders Today
Message and Prayers: Rev. John Dillon
Music Leaders: Sherri Dees, Mike Griswold, Steve Connell,
Anthony Jay Houston, and Dan Bretz

WE GATHER IN GRACE

INTROIT: LORD CHRIST, THE ONLY SON OF GOD (BWV 601) J.S. Bach

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry.
Whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
Let us worship the Lord.

WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE (*verses 1 and 5*)

GTG 151

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy and merciful God, in your presence
we confess our failure to be what you created us to be.
You alone know the darkness hidden deep within.
You alone know how often we stray.
You alone know the "joy" we have taken
from our wandering.
You alone know the wasting of our gifts.
You alone can bring us back to life.
Be merciful, O Lord. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (vs 4)

GTG 121

**O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life is gone, the new life begun.
Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.
For only Christ brings true Peace.
Peace be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

SUNG RESPONSE: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH (vs 3) GTG 113

**Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

WE GROW IN GRACE

WEE WORSHIP

SUNG RESPONSE: HE CAME DOWN

GTG 137

**He came down that we may have light
He came down that we may have light
He came down that we may have light
hallelujah forevermore.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 147:12-20 (*The Message*)

O RADIANT LIGHT from *Phos Hilaron*, (vs 2)
a Christian evening hymn from the 3rd century/

arr. Bill Carter

**O Son of God, the source of life,
Praise is Your due by night and day.
Our happy lips must raise the strain
Of Your esteemed and splendid name.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:10-18 (*The Message*)

MESSAGE

“Let There Be Life”

Rev. John Dillon

BORN IN THE NIGHT, MARY'S CHILD (vs 2)

GTG 158

**Clear shining light, Mary's Child,
your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's Child,
dawn on our darkened day.**

OFFERING: WHAT CHILD IS THIS? (vs 3)

GTG 145

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!**

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!

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE:

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

African-American Spiritual

arr. Lorraine Nelson Wolf

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor: As we enter the New Year, we set out with Christ.

Not to escape life but to live.

Not to look back to where we have been or who we were,
but to look forward to where we are heading
and who we shall be.

We will travel in the well-worn footsteps
of centuries of pilgrims gone before us.

Fed and empowered by Christ at this table,
let us set out with Christ. Amen.

WE GO IN GRACE

WHO WOULD THINK THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED (*vs 1*)

GTG 138

**Who would think that what was needed
to transform and save the earth
might not be a plan or army,
proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision,
that a child should lead the way?
God surprises earth with heaven,
coming here on Christmas Day.**

BENEDICTION

*We gather in grace, we grow in grace, we go in grace...
The journey continues in an ever-widening circle of grace.*
