

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
Palm Sunday
March 28, 2021 | 10:00

Worship Leaders Today

Message and Prayers: Pastor John Dillon

Youth Leaders: Camden, Cassidy and Cara Koronkiewicz,

Arthur, Max, Henry and Teddy Pracht,

Anna and Hazel Griswold, Parker Russo

Adult Leaders: Anthony Jay Houston, David Woodruff, David Dees,

Sarah Lochen, and Karen Nelson

Musicians: Anthony Jay Houston, vibes, Dan Bretz, drums,

Sherri Dees, piano, Steve Connell, vocals

Liturgist: Marcus Koronkiewicz

WE GATHER IN GRACE

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The story of faith is a story of courage.

**All: It took courage for John the Baptist
to prepare the way.**

One: It took courage for Mary to say, "Here I am. Use me."

**All: It took courage for the disciples
to drop their nets and follow Jesus.**

One: It took courage for the paralyzed man's friends
to lower him through the roof.

All: It took courage for Peter to walk on water.

One: It took courage for Zacchaeus
to give half of his possessions to the poor.

**All: It took courage for Jesus
to enter Jerusalem on a donkey.**

One: Faith has never been easy. It is a journey of courage.

All: Again and again, God, show us the way.

One: Let us worship a brave and courageous God.

FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT

GTG 199

**Filled with excitement, all the happy throng
spread cloaks and branches on the city streets.
There in the distance they begin to see,
there on a donkey comes the Savior Christ.**

refrain: **From every corner a thousand voices sing
praise to the One who comes in the name of God.
Our acclamation breaks forth in shouts of praise,
our triumphant song of joy:
"Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!
Hosanna, hosanna to Christ!"**

**As in that entrance to Jerusalem,
hosannas we will sing to Jesus Christ,
to our Redeemer who still calls today,
asks us to follow with our love and faith. (*refrain*)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God of palm branches and hosannas:

**All: We confess—we love a good Palm Sunday celebration.
We love the sound of a joyful parade.
We love shouting, “hosanna!”
We love that Palm Sunday means
Easter is just around the corner.
We love good news.**

One: However, if we slow down and pay attention, we know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for you. There was risk. There was fear. There was the threat of violence. You were leading a peaceful protest against an unjust empire, and the whole world knew it.

**All: Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took.
Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage,
and even we can do hard things. With hope we pray.
Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE: KYRIE

GTG 577

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. (*Lord have mercy.*)
Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

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: SANNA, SANNANINA

GTG 597

**Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna.
Sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna.**

**Sanna, sanna, sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna.
Sanna, sanna, sanna, sannanina, sanna, sanna, sanna.**

WE GROW IN GRACE

SCRIPTURE READING:

John 12:1-19

TRAVELING THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

JL Bell

Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?
Fêted by noise and branches
And banners hanging from every tree;
Cheered on by frenzied people,
Puzzled by what they hear and see:
Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?

MESSAGE

“Best Tour in Jerusalem”

written by Paula Viner

TRAVELING THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

JL Bell

Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?
Partnered by staunch supporters
Who, come the dark, will turn and flee;
Nourished by faith and patience,
Neither of which is plain to see:
Travelling the road to freedom,
Who wants to travel the road with me?

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Let us together affirm our faith in the Triune God.

All: I refuse to believe that I am powerless.

**I refuse to believe that injustice and hatred
are simply the way it has to be.**

**I refuse to believe that I am better or more deserving
than my neighbor.**

**I refuse to believe that my self-worth
is rooted in my accomplishments or appearance.**

**I refuse to believe that the Church is dying,
because I see God all around me.**

**I refuse to believe that the traditions of old
are the only path for moving forward.**

**I refuse to believe that I cannot make a difference.
So, with hope in my heart, I will strive to live a life
of courage, conviction, and compassion,
just as Jesus taught us. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

Walker's

Southern Harmony, 1835

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

RIDE ON, RIDE ON! (*verse 6*)

JL Bell

**Ride on, ride on, God's love demands.
Justice and peace lie in your hands.
Evil and angel voices rhyme:
This is the man and this the time.**

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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