

AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



## Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

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**John Dillon, Pastor**  
**July 24, 2022 | 10:00 am**  
**Rev. Fred Neuschel-Guest Preacher**

# WE GATHER IN GRACE

*A “+” indicates all are invited to stand.*

*Reminders: Our worship service is being livestreamed and is on Zoom.*

PRELUDE: BRAHMS INTERMEZZO OP. 199 NO. 1

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

+HYMN # 611: JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: When Jesus encountered people he saw through facades. He impacted others by seeing in them their faults, frailties, questions, doubts; their gifts, talents, good intentions and their desire to live out the reality of being a child of God.

**All: Those who engaged him were the people who let him in without pretense, the people who did not hide either their faults or their gifts; their doubts or their deepest beliefs.**

One: And those who came away being blessed by their encounter with the Lord, were those who did something that is very difficult for many of us: they asked for help; they admitted that they had questions; they confessed their need for a deeper relationship with God.

**All: So, too, we come seeking, asking, confessing; confident that we will be met by the love of God who gifted us with life and who wants us enjoy it forever.**

ABSOLUTION AND PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: Of this we can be sure: God does not make junk. God is quick to grant forgiveness to those who seek it. God is aware of our failures and graciously offers a path for reconciliation and healing. God sees our gifts and wants us to use them for the benefit of all creation.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pass the peace.

## WE GROW IN GRACE

SCRIPTURE READING:

John 1:1-14

ANTHEM: RIVER IN JUDEA

Linda Marcus  
Jack Feldman

MESSAGE            *“Open Hearts, Open Minds”*    Rev. Fred Neuschel

+HYMN # 684: FAITH BEGINS BY LETTING GO

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: RIVER IN JUDEA INSTRUMENTAL REPRISE

+DOXOLOGY: HYMN #607

**Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;  
praise Christ all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## WE GO IN GRACE

+HYMN # 488: I WAS THERE TO HEAR YOUR BORNING CRY

+CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

+SENDING: AMEN

John Bell

*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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MUSIC LEADERS: RCLPC CHOIR  
DIRECTED BY: ANTHONY JAY HOUSTON AND SCOTT IDDINGS  
ACCOMPANISTS: ANN LEGG AND MIKE GRISWOLD  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: STEVE CONNELL



*Visit Our Welcome Page...*  
[rclpc.org/welcomeToRCLPC.html](http://rclpc.org/welcomeToRCLPC.html)

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## **Hymn 611: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee;  
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus  
which the morning stars began.  
Love divine is reigning o'er us,  
joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife.  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.

## **Hymn 684: Faith Begins by Letting Go**

Faith begins by letting go,  
giving up what had seemed sure,  
taking risks and pressing on,  
though the way feels less secure:  
pilgrimage both right and odd,  
trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on,  
keeping memory's roots alive  
so that hope may bear its fruit;  
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,  
not through merit we possess  
but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out,  
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,  
sharing struggles, living prayer,  
binding up the broken parts;  
till we find the commonplace  
ripe with witness to God's grace.

## Hymn 488: I Was There To Hear Your Boring Cry

“I was there to hear your boring cry;  
I’ll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child  
with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell.”

“When you heard the wonder of the Word,  
I was there to cheer you on.  
You were raised to praise the living Lord  
to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time  
and you join your hearts as one,  
I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme  
from dusk till rising sun.”

“In the middle ages of your life,  
not too old, no longer young,  
I’ll be there to guide you through the night,  
complete what I’ve begun.  
When the evening gently closes in  
and you shut your weary eyes,  
I’ll be there as I have always been  
with just one more surprise.”

“I was there to hear your boring cry;  
I’ll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized  
to see your life unfold.”