

AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

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John Dillon, Pastor
January 8, 2023 | 10:00 am

DIRECTED BY: ANTHONY JAY HOUSTON AND SCOTT IDDINGS
ACCOMPANISTS: ANN LEGG
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: STEVE CONNELL
TECHNICAL ASSISTANT: WILL EMMANUEL

WE GATHER IN GRACE

A “+” indicates all are invited to stand as able.

WORDS OF WELCOME

+HYMN #95 PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

+CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have hardly drawn breath after the Christ child’s birth. The angels have barely flown, the shepherds are only now making their way back, the wise ones have scarcely found another star to follow.

All: **But the songs of the angels and adoration of the shepherds and the wise ones echo still of possible futures, of new eras, of confirmed belief, and if we listen... we can hear them still.**

+HYMN #119 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Eternal one, you are wise beyond our understanding; you are hidden from our sight and yet revealed in Jesus and all creation. You are ancient and yet ever youthful; you are neither male nor female and yet we are made in your image.

All: **We gather here because you sent Jesus into the world to reveal your love for us and to call us to follow in his way. Together with our brothers and sisters around the world we meet together to show you our love in words and song, in silence and speech. We are truly sorry that we have sometimes let you down, we have failed to speak or act in ways that are loving, forgive us Lord.**

~Silence~

One: Having offered our sins before you, help us to accept that you promise to forgive us, help us to commit to trying to do and be better people in the coming days.

All: May your spirit guide us on our way, give us ears to listen and guide our words and actions.

ABSOLUTION AND PASSING THE PEACE

One: Now the Good News has been told, the promise fulfilled, the angels have sung and the stable now quiet. And we are forgiven and the Peace of Christ is upon us. Let us share that Peace with stranger and friend. Peace be with you!

+HYMN #70 WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU

WE GROW IN GRACE

WEE WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 42:8-9 & Luke 3:1-18

+HYMN #96 ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY

MESSAGE

The Last Prophet?

Rev. John Dillon

OFFERING: LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

Arr. Ann Legg
Piano Solo

MOMENT FOR MISSION: LIVING WATERS

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION 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.

+COMMUNION: HYMN #530 ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: The promise of God is fulfilled in the birth of Jesus.

All: Yet the world is still waiting for peace to arrive, for justice to take root and for love to find room. Grant us the wisdom and strength to follow Jesus.

One: May we believe even more. Try even harder. Live more fully, and go out into the world sustained, challenged and led by the Creator, Christ & Spirit. Amen.

WE GO IN GRACE

+HYMN #295 (v1&2) GO TO THE WORLD!

+SENDING

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

Our worship service is being livestreamed and is on Zoom



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Prepare the Way of the Lord 95

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D)
* E^b A^b E^b * (chords continue)

Pre- pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord,
and all peo- ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Prepare the Way of the Lord'. It consists of two staves of music in 6/8 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to two flats. Above the staff, the text 'Capo 1: (D) (G) (D)' is written, with asterisks above the first and fifth measures. Below the staff, the lyrics 'Pre- pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord,' are written. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'and all peo- ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.' The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

**May be sung as a canon.*

All three synoptic gospels identify John the Baptist as the forerunner of the Messiah (Matthew 3:3/Mark 1:2-3/Luke 3:4) in accord with Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 40:3b). Because the latter part of the text (Isaiah 52:10b) has yet to be accomplished, this is still our mission today.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984

Text and Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

PREPARE THE WAY
7.7.6.7

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

What Does the Lord Require of You? 70

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm)
 B^b F Gm Dm

*1.
 What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2.
 Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3.
 To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

(C) (G) (Am) (D) (G)
 E^b B^b Cm F B^b *Repeat as desired*

What does the Lord re - quire of you?
 walk hum - bly with your God.
 and walk hum - bly with your God.

**The three melodic phrases may be sung consecutively, as a canon, or in any combination.*

This text is a very slight paraphrase of the latter part of Micah 6:8. That verse sums up in a single sentence the legal, ethical, and covenantal requirements of religion. The intertwining of these commitments can be suggested by singing these phrases in an overlapping canon.

96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

Go to the World!

295

1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - ery place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry "A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Based on Christ's great commission (Matthew 28:19–20), this text was written for a Convocation of Emmanuel College in Toronto, the largest theological school of the United Church of Canada, a denomination formed by the union of Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians.

530 One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of



all, one cup of bless - ing which we bless.



And we, though man-y, through-out the



earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the
 3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and



free, wom - an or man, no more.
 works, one in the Lord of all.
 grown, gath - ered to one, for all.

This Lord's Supper text is based on various Scriptures (1 Corinthians 10:16–17, Galatians 3:28, and 1 Corinthians 12:1–31) as well as imagery from the *Didache*, a significant Christian document from the early 2nd century, about scattered grain united in the eucharistic bread.