

AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

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Jeremiah 23:1-6 • ilu@retadministry.com

John Dillon, Pastor
November 20, 2022 | 10:00 am
Christ the King Sunday

WE GATHER IN GRACE

A “+” indicates all are invited to stand.

PRELUDE: OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART

Sonic Flood

WORDS OF WELCOME

+HYMN # 475 COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

+CALL TO WORSHIP (PS 145:8-9)

One: What kind of king would choose the way of pain, and not the path of privilege and pleasure? What kind of king would choose a thorny crown, and wooden cross, a throne? What kind of king...?

All: Love’s champion, defender of the poor, the suffering; self-giving, not self-serving: who overturned death, and promised Paradise without prerequisite. Christ is our king— let us follow him.

+HYMN # 268 CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Loving God, and King, who’s reign is beyond our earthly understanding of power and politics, who sits enthroned above heaven and earth, we approach Your throne in hope and in joy.

Left: We come confessing our faults and failings our attachment to this world of easy answers,

Right: We come confessing our tendency to judge those and that which we do not understand or know,

Left: our habit of following the crowd rather than your son, our savior.

All: Help us as we seek to live within your kingdom of love, acceptance, and hope, this day.

Right: Hear us now as we bring to you in silence the thoughts, confessions and hopes of our hearts.

~Silence~

ABSOLUTION AND PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: We give thanks, forgiving God, for the assurance of your love, the constancy of your care, and the immensity of your grace which tells us we are forgiven, this day and all days. Peace be with you!

+SUNG RESPONSE: HYMN #447 WE ARE FORGIVEN

WE GROW IN GRACE

WEE WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6 (The Message)

ANTHEM: THE SOUND THAT SAVED US ALL Anthony Skinner

MESSAGE *"The Threat of Jesus"* Rev. John Dillon

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: KEEP YOUR LAMPS Arr. Andre Thomas

+DOXOLOGY HYMN # 607

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

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE GO IN GRACE

+HYMN # 269 LEAD ON, O KING ETERNAL

+SENDING

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

MUSIC LEADERS: BAND AND CHOIR

DIRECTED BY: ANTHONY JAY HOUSTON AND SCOTT IDDINGS

ACCOMPANISTS: ANN LEGG AND MIKE GRISWOLD

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR: STEVE CONNELL

Our worship service is being livestreamed and is on Zoom



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Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475

1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith-er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un-chang-ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a-bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

Crown Him with Many Crowns 268

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
 3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty,
 but down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

FORGIVENESS

447

We Are Forgiven

G Am D7 Gsus G C
 We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to
 G Am7 Dsus D G Am
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.
 D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
 Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
 10.8.10.8

269 Lead On, O King Eternal!

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,
 for not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;
 your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light.

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 with deeds of love and mer - cy the heaven-ly king-dom comes.
 The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Not everything that looks like a battle ends up being one. This text, written for a seminary graduation, works well with its martial tune in the first stanza; but later stanzas turn from such imagery and focus on "deeds of love and mercy" and courage for life's journey.