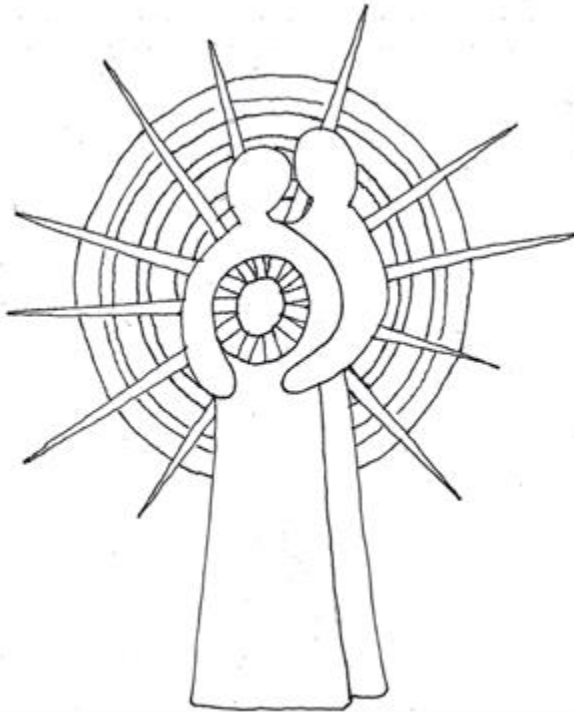


AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

8505 Church Street | Crystal Lake, IL 60012 | 815-459-1132
www.rclpc.org



John Dillon, Pastor
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018 | 11:00

*As a courtesy, please silence cell phones before worship.
A “+” indicates all are invited to stand in either body or spirit.*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Noël

Daquin

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH ALIVE!

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Advent, winter days of longing.

Hoping for justice. Yearning for love. Seeking light.

**All: Then Lord, you come
with warm tears and laughter, telling eternal truth,
sharing the joys and sorrows of our lives.**

Pastor: Let us thank God with our praise.

+HYMN 106: PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION

+LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: In the beginning was the Word –
spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.

**All: Persevere in hope, keep the faith –
God's promise is true!**

One: The Word was in the beginning,
and through him all things come into being.

**All: Eternal and near at hand,
already and not yet,
God's promise is the foundation of all life.
Keep going!**

One: Persevere in joy, giving voice to God's presence yet again.

~ candle is lit ~

**All sing: As we light the Advent candle
with the light of joy burning bright,
faithfully we wait for his coming;
faithfully it shines through the night.
In our humble hearts a fire burns as well;
hear the prayer these flames would tell.
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel.**

+ADVENT PRAYER

Pastor: We will watch and listen and wait,

All: with the poor and the oppressed.

Pastor: We will watch and listen and wait,

All: with all who long for healing and for meaning.

Pastor: We will watch and listen and wait,

All: with the lost and those in darkness.

Pastor: We will watch and listen and wait,

**All: for we believe we shall see God,
and hear words of salvation.**

Pastor: We wait in joyful expectation.

All: Amen.

+SUNG RESPONSE:

AWAKE! AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN GTG 107, verse 4

All sing: Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.

**Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light;
be strong and loving and fearless.**

**Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;**

**may God fill every day we share
and bring us at last into glory.**

+PASSING THE PEACE

One: Jesus brings the gift of peace, to make us bearers of hope,
able to see light even in darkness.

**All: May Christ's peace empower us to reconciliation,
healing and justice. May it sink deeply into our being,
and may we share it with joy.**

+SUNG RESPONSE:

GTG 113

All sing: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WEE WORSHIP

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

words: Rosetti; music: Holst

SCRIPTURE AND DRAMATIC READING

Luke 1:5-7,11-25,57-66

MESSAGE *Birth of a Promise - Joy and Gladness* Rev. John Dillon

+HYMN 292: AS THE WIND SONG

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: *Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree* Elizabeth Poston

+DOXOLOGY: ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY (v 4) GTG 143

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ,
the newborn king!**

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

+HYMN 79: LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD

+SENDING

Pastor: We stand in awe of you this day, magnificent God,
as we re-enter the world already full of Christmas joy,
cheer and celebration.

**All: Help us to remember we are still waiting,
we are dumb-struck in awe of what is being prepared,
help us to prepare our hearts again
for the joy of your in-breaking into this world.**

Pastor: May we go forth with joy, the joy of expectation,
the joy of excitement, the joy of transformation.

In the name of the Creator, Christ, and Spirit. Amen.

+POSTLUDE

Noel Suisse

Daquin

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