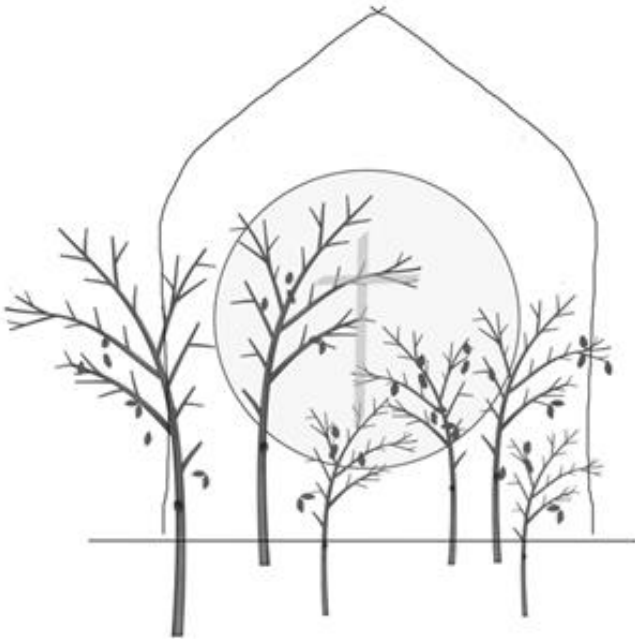


AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF GRACE



# Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

8505 Church Street | Crystal Lake, IL 60012 | 815-459-1132  
[www.rclpc.org](http://www.rclpc.org)



**John Dillon, Pastor**  
**1st Sunday in Lent**  
**March 1, 2020 | 9:00**

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

# WE GATHER

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH ALIVE!

## +CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God hovered over the void and breathed life into dust.

**All: God created in the wilderness.**

One: The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years.

**All: The Israelites found God in the wilderness.**

One: Jesus said “no” to the tempter time and time again.

**All: Jesus claimed his identity in the wilderness.**

One: We grow in the wilderness. We learn in the wilderness.

**All: For God is with us—  
before, through, and after the wilderness.**

One: Let us worship God!

**All: Amen.**

## +BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL

## +PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: God of Creation, the psalms remind us that even before a word is on our tongue, you know it completely.

**All: You know the prayers we bring before you today—  
confessions of greed and doubt, fear and anxiety,  
conflict and regret. Free us from these sins.  
Give us the strength to say “no” to that which  
separates us from you, and “yes” to the things that let  
love grow. Guide us out of our self-created wilderness  
spaces and into your light. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

## +SUNG RESPONSE: LAMB OF GOD

JL Bell

**Lamb of God**

**you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

+ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS AND PASSING THE PEACE

One: "Begin again," life whispers in my ear.

Some days are beginning days.

Some days are designed to be the day we try again,  
and on those days— God is cheering for you.

That's just the way God and beginnings work.

**All: For when my heart is broken and my life is in pieces, or  
when I lose sight of the person that I am called to be,  
from out of wilderness the voice of God sings to me,  
"begin again."**

One: So know you are forgiven and "begin again,"  
empowered by the peace which only Christ can bring.  
Let us share the peace with one another.

+*SUNG RESPONSE: AMAHORO*

Tracy Howe

*"Amahoro" is a word from the Kirundi language, spoken in Burundi as well as parts of Tanzania, Uganda and the D.R. Congo. It is a common greeting meaning "peace" and is used in this song as a prayer and blessing that could be translated, "Let peace flow between us!"*

## WE GROW

WEE WORSHIP

*SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD*

GTG 175

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
and its righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you;  
seek, and you shall find;  
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!**

**You shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God.  
Allelu, alleluia!**

SCRIPTURE DRAMATIC READING

Matthew 4:1-11

MESSAGE           *“Jesus’s Ministry Began in the  
Wilderness.”*

Rev. John Dillon

OFFERING: *I’M DETERMINED TO WALK WITH JESUS* arr. Raymond Wise

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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 OF THE PEOPLE

*We are celebrating communion by intinction. Everyone is invited to come forward down the center aisle, receive a piece of bread (or ask for gluten-free bread), dip it in the cup, and eat. You may return to your seat down the side aisles. The bread and the cup will be brought to those who cannot or do not wish to come forward. We have an open table. Everyone is welcome.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: We believe in a wilderness God—

**All:   Who breathed life into dust,  
turned seeds into flowers,  
and flooded the sky with stars.**

Pastor: We believe in a wilderness God—

**All:   Who went hungry in the desert,  
walked barefoot on the water,  
and taught from the mountainside.**

Pastor: We believe in a wilderness God—

**All: Whose love could be described  
as nothing short of wild.**

Pastor: So with confidence and hope,  
we long to follow our wilderness God  
who walks with people on their darkest nights,

**All: Who sings hope into places of grief,  
isolation, and suffering,  
and who exists in the form of untamed joy,  
wildfire love, and impossible hope.  
Step by step, may it be so. Amen.**

## WE GO

+I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

GTG 775

**I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

+SENDING

## **A Cappella Sunday**

This Sunday we are celebrating the first Sunday of Lent. To mark the beginning of this important season of penitence and preparation, we are joining with congregations around the country in singing congregational songs a cappella (without instrumental accompaniment). By singing a cappella, we are offering to God ourselves in its most basic form. Soli Deo Gloria. To God alone be the glory.

"A Cappella Sunday" is a ministry of  
The Center for Congregational Song.  
[www.congregationalson.org](http://www.congregationalson.org)

*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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FLOWERS are given by **Mike & Maggie Griswold** in celebration of Hazel's 5th birthday.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH ALIVE! Details of all church events, meetings etc. are available online at [www.rclpc.org](http://www.rclpc.org). Printed copies are available from the ushers.