

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portage, Michigan

ORDER OF WORSHIP ~ November 29, 2020 – First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT "People, Look East" verse 1 #12 (Hymnal)

***People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make you house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest is on the way.***

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

Kelly & Martin Schultz

A READING

SONG: ***O come, o come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!*** #9 (Hymnal)

SCRIPTURE Psalm 25:4,5

HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" #8 (Hymnal)

***Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, behold the king of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.
Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.
Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.***

PRAYER

(adapted from a prayer by Henri Nouwen)

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations in this season.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 64:1-9

SERMON: "The Gift of a Prayerful Advent"

HYMN

"There Is a Longing"

#141 (Lift Up Your Hearts)

*Refrain: There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.*

*For justice, for freedom, for mercy, hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief, be near, hear our prayer, o God. Refrain*

*For wisdom, for courage, for comfort, hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear, be near, hear our prayer, o God. Refrain*

*For healing, for wholeness, for new life, hear our prayer.
In sickness, in death, be near, hear our prayer, o God. Refrain*

*Lord, save us, take pity, light in our darkness.
We call you, we wait. Be near, hear our prayer, o God. Refrain*

PRAYER

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

CLOSING SONG "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

(Lift Up Your Hearts)

***Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, pardon, Lord.
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.***

***Oh! Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.***

***Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.***

***Oh! Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.***

***Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.***

BLESSING

POSTLUDE