**Westminster Presbyterian Church, Portage, Michigan**

ORDER OF WORSHIP- July 25, 2021

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

INTROIT “Spirit Song” #13 (Lift Up Your Hearts)

***O let the Son of God enfold you with his Spirit and his love,***

***let him fill your life and satisfy your soul.***

***O let him have the things that hold you and his Spirit, like a dove,***

***Will descend upon your life and make you whole.***

***Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.***

***O come and sing this song with gladness as your hearts are filled with joy,***

***Lift your hands in sweet surrender to his name.***

***O give him all your tears and sadness, give him all your years of pain,***

***And you’ll enter into life in Jesus’ name.***

***Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs. Jesus, O Jesus, come and fill your lambs.***

CALL TO WORSHIP (from the Corrymeela Community)

We begin the day alone,

**Honoring this life, with all of its potentials and possibilities.**

We begin our day with trust,

**Knowing we are created for loving encounter.**

We begin our day with hope,

**Knowing the day can hold love, kindness, forgiveness and justice.**

We recall our day yesterday,

**May we learn, may we love, may we live on.**

We make room for the unexpected,

**May we find wisdom and life in the unexpected.**

Help us to embrace possibility, respond graciously to disappointment and hold tenderly those we encounter.

**Help us be fully present to the day.**

We pray for all whose day will be difficult,

**May we support, may we listen, may we be open to change.**

We resolve to live life in its fullness:

**We will welcome the people who will be part of this day.**

**We will greet God in the ordinary and hidden moments.**

**We will fully live the life we are living.**

May we find the wisdom we need,

**God be with us.**

May we hear the needs of those we meet,

**God be with us.**

May we love the life that we are given,

**God be with us. Amen.**

\*SONG “From the Sun’s Rising” #25 (Hearts)

***From the sun’s rising unto the sun’s setting, Jesus our Lord shall be great in the earth;***

***And all earth’s kingdoms shall be his dominion, all of creation shall sing of his worth.***

*Refrain:* ***Let ev’ry heart, ev’ry voice, ev’ry tongue join with spirits ablaze.***

***One in his love, we will circle the world with the song of his praise.***

***O let all his people rejoice, and let all the earth hear his voice.***

***To ev’ry tongue, tribe, and nation he sends us, to make disciples, to teach and baptize.***

***For all authority to him is given; now as his witnesses we shall arise.*** *(Refrain)*

***Come let us join with the church from all nations, cross ev’ry border, throw wide ev’ry door;***

***Workers with him as he gathers his harvest, till earth’s far corners our Savior adore.***

*(Refrain)*

***Let all his people rejoice, and let all the earth hear his voice.***

PRAYER (by Rev. M. Barclay, Enfleshed)

God of Holy Chaos, You don’t protect us from getting swept up into relationships and systems and experiences that are messy, but you do promise us that You will be found in the midst of them. Help us to remember that when the world was aching, You drew nearer, putting on flesh. It was through that enfleshed reality of love, that You transformed our world. Relationship with you is not an escape—it is the hope and courage we need to dive right into the mess of things. You, O God, are enfleshed in our beautiful but aching earth, in our work for a just society, and in our efforts to love and be loved. You have been inviting us to be with you all along, and in this moment, we reciprocate and welcome and invite you to be with us. **Amen**.

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2 Samuel 11:1-15

John 6:1-21

SERMON “A Love Letter” Rev. Kathleen Roberston King

HYMN “O God Beyond All Praising” #2009 (Sing the Faith)

***O God beyond all praising, we worship you today***

***and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;***

***for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,***

***at blessings without number and mercies without end:***

***we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,***

***we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.***

***Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,***

***that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;***

***and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,***

***we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:***

***to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,***

***and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.***

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**

\*HYMN “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” #387 (*Hymnal*)

***Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;***

***In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare:***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, Thine we are;***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, Thine we are.***

***Thou hast promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;***

***Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and power to free:***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee;***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee.***

***Early let us seek Thy favor; Early let us do Thy will;***

***Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Thy love our bosoms fill:***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;***

***Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.***

BLESSING

\*CLOSING SONG “Gentle Shepherd” #102 (Hearts)

***Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us, for we need you to help us find our way.***

***Gentle Shepherd, come and feed us, for we need your strength from day to day.***

***There’s no other we can turn to who can help us face another day.***

***Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us, for we need you to help us find our way.***

POSTLUDE