

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 26, 2022



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell!

We are a diverse faith family who value traditional worship, including Biblical teaching, prayer, confession, music, and a fellowship of caring and sharing.

We believe in the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We practice the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion which define who we are and encourage and sustain us in our daily life.

By the Grace of God and to the Glory of God, as servants of God, we strive to demonstrate the Love of God through Jesus Christ and in the Peace of the Holy Spirit by offering a welcoming and nurturing community and by reaching out in compassion beyond our fellowship to people in need.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 26, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship

Third Sunday after Pentecost

(* *Stand as you are able*)

Please phone 269-215-0384 to join together!

<https://meetings.dialpad.com/room/plainwellpcusa>

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

In this season after Pentecost, as we celebrate the fire of God's Love and Peace, we invite you to light a candle in your home.

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND SALUTATION

Rev. Ruth Lowry

L: God, who rules the universe, calls us;

Christ, who took up his cross, calls us;

Holy Spirit, who frees us body and soul, calls us.

Let us faithfully answer by worshipping the triune God.

*OPENING HYMN #476

"O Worship the King"

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judy Wood, Liturgist

SONG OF PRAISE (from Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20)

L: I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, that God may hear me.

P: In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.

L: I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD; I will remember Your wonders of old.

P: I will meditate on all Your work, and muse on Your mighty deeds.

L: Your way, O God, is holy. What god is so great as our God?

P: You are the God who works wonders; You have displayed Your might among the peoples.

L: With Your strong arm You redeemed Your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

P: When the waters saw You, O God, when the waters saw You, they were afraid; the very deep trembled.

L: The clouds poured out water; the skies thundered; Your arrows flashed on every side.

P: The crash of Your thunder was in the whirlwind; Your lightnings lit up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

L: Your way was through the sea, Your path, through the mighty waters; yet Your footprints were unseen.

ALL: You led Your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron. You welcome us to You.

WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP *Margaret Hawley-Lowry*
“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Ruth

Christ Jesus did not call down destruction upon those who rejected him. How much more will he show mercy to those who seek forgiveness. In faith, let us confess our sins. *Luke 9:52–55*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

O God, Holy Trinity, help us to confess our sins.

You give us a place in Your creation, and You intend that we live in love with all that You have made.

We confess that we abuse what You give us.

By our thoughts, actions, and the meditations of our hearts we show how enslaved we are to life made corrupt by sin.

Far from walking in the Spirit, we stumble on paths that lead to death.

O Fire of heaven, have mercy on us.

Satisfy the longings of our souls by taking us up into Your Spirit that we may love our neighbor.

Rekindle our desire to follow our Savior, Jesus Christ, whose passion for obeying You leads us to our inheritance, which is Your promised kingdom.

To You and the Son and the Spirit,

One God, be all worship and praise now and forever. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The crucified Christ has set us free to live in the Spirit of life.

Hear the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

***GLORIA PATRI # 579**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Judy Wood, Liturgist

O God,

by Your Spirit plant Your word within us that we may follow Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, and never leave him. May we find our home in Your kingdom and our life in Your Spirit. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Galatians 5:1, 13-25;
Luke 9:51-62

SERMON

“Guided by the Spirit”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***HYMN #326**

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon Our Hearts”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

(Apostles’ Creed)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The blessings that come from God are rich like the fruits of summer. With our tithes and our offerings let us give thanks and praise to the triune God: to the Son for our salvation, the Spirit for our rising, and the Creator of heaven and earth.

(We invite you, at this time, to write a check and mail it to the church, if you are able.)

Offertory

Margaret Hawley-Lowry

“Partita in E” (Bach)

*The Doxology #592

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!***

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION**

Liturgist

We thank You for Your self-giving love. You made us in Your image and gave us a home in Your world. You did not forsake us when our sin brought disaster upon what You love.

Instead, You sojourned with us in the wasteland;

You taught us neighbor-love and holiness through the commands of Moses;

You spoke to us words of justice, correction, and kindness in the poetry of the prophets.

We thank You that in the fullness of time You sent the Son to be born of Mary by the Holy Spirit, to be the perfect image of God.

We thank You that Christ Jesus gave himself upon the cross to free us from the bondage to sin and death.

We thank You for receiving him in resurrection and ascension, the firstborn of the new creation.

Through Christ we have freedom to walk in the Spirit that is eternal life.

We present our offerings and commit ourselves to follow Jesus Christ, love our neighbors, and share the fruits of the Spirit, giving You thanks and praise, O holy, triune God. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Judy Wood, Liturgist

[A time of silence follows each petition.]

God of the angels and the saints in light, head of the church universal and apostolic, midwife of the new creation, hear us as we pray for the coming of Your kingdom. *[silent prayer]*

Cleanse the pollution of the world caused by human sin.
Receive the body of the earth, and the bodies of Your children
into Your holy presence. Dwell with us and be our light.

Hear us as we pray
for the healing of the nations. . . . [*silent prayer*]
Silence the wars and rumors of terror that plague the human
family.

Guide leaders of the world to the river and the tree of life.
May the fruits of the Spirit feed the people of the earth.
Hear us as we pray for all who suffer. . . . [*silent prayer*]

Lift the yoke of human pain from the sick, the hungry, and the
grieving,
Move the hearts of Your people to serve all who are in need.

Hear us as we pray
for the Church. . . . [*silent prayer*]
Lay the mantle of Elijah on the shoulders of the people of God.
Let the Spirit shine in the eyes of the body of Christ.
With a mighty voice, let the church roar, “Justice!”
With a tender kiss, let her pray, “Mercy.”
With the sign of the cross, let her say, “Peace be with you,”
In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who taught us to
pray:

**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.**

CHARGE

Pastor Ruth Lowry

L: Let your life show the goodness of God. Pray with your body.
Thank the Spirit for simple pleasures.
Guard your mind and spirit against false desires or ambitions that
would lead you away from loving your neighbor as yourself.

Build up the community around you; live at peace in the body of Christ. Be loyal to that which is worthy of your loyalty: God's presence and God's future.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

1. I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.

2. The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.

3. Though none go with me, I still will follow,
Though none go with me I still will follow,
Though none go with me, I still will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.

4. Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?
No turning back, no turning back.

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Ruth Lowry

God makes you free as an eagle riding the wind.
Christ gives you a home in the kingdom he is bringing.
The Holy Spirit fills your belly with fire,
and your heart with joy.

POSTLUDE

Margaret Hawley-Lowry

***GREETINGS TO EACH OTHER**

*Enjoy a time of greeting each other before ending the phone call.
(Portions of Liturgy are from "Feasting on the Word")*



Questions for Reflection

To what is God calling me? How might others know that I walk in the Spirit with Christ?

Household Prayer: Morning

Almighty God, in awe I remember that You made me in Your image and breathed the Spirit of life into me. I marvel that Your Son, Jesus, took on flesh and bone just like mine, and gave himself for my salvation. Help me to live this day fully open to Your presence. Let me worship You alone with my body, mind, and spirit, delighting in what is good and turning from what is not. Let me love my neighbor as myself with all that You give me. Be patient with me, and help me to be patient with others. Teach me how to bring peace to those who are troubled and to show kindness, especially to the weak. Today, let me seek Your kingdom, through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

O God, guardian of Your people, thank You for Your care today. As I move into evening, help me to recall with thanksgiving the wonders I have known, the joy I have felt, and Your love I have received. Forgive me for the ways in which I misused what You intend for good. Jesus had nowhere to rest his head; let me rest in him. I pray for all who are dear to me, that they, too, may abide in Your care. Grant the peace of sleep to all who are weary; and let us rise to a new day, giving You praise as we prepare for the eternal day You are bringing through Jesus Christ, the Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

