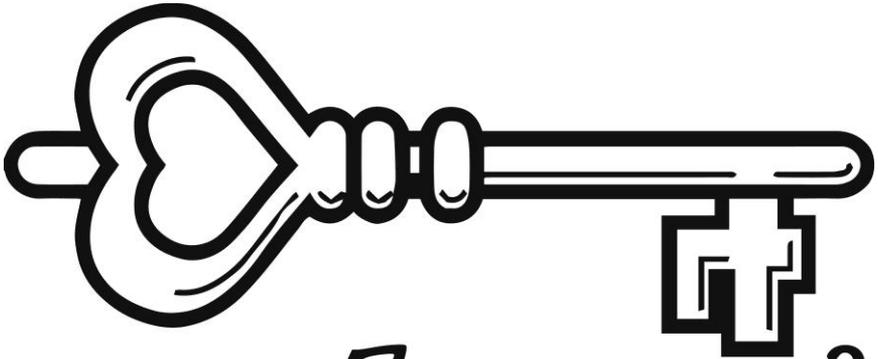


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 31, 2022



WHAT DO YOU *Treasure?*

## *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

July 31, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship

*Eighth 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 of 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

*Pastor Ruth Lowry*

L: We are children of God, learning to walk.

*Hos. 11:3-4*

**P: Day by day, we are learning to be the church.**

L: God is a loving parent, teaching us to walk.

**ALL: God loves us, leads us, and feeds us.**

### \*OPENING HYMN #555

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Marcus Taylor, Liturgist*

### SONG OF PRAISE (*Psalm 107:1-9, 43*)

*(Responsive)*

L: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good! For God's steadfast love endures forever.

**P: Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those God redeemed from trouble,**

L: And gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**P: Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;**

L: Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

**P: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and the LORD delivered them from their distress;**

L: The LORD led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.

**P: Let them thank the LORD for the steadfast love of God, for God's wonderful works to humankind.**

L: For the LORD satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry the LORD fills with good things.

**ALL: Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the LORD!**

**WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP**

*Christy Connell*

*“Here I Am to Worship”*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Pastor Ruth Lowry*

Let us return to our God in confession,  
considering God’s steadfast love.

*Ps. 107:43*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

*Ps. 107:7; Hos.11:1–11*

**Nurturing God, you continue to lead us in upright ways  
on account of your love for us.**

**Yet we do not always follow your call;  
we turn away from you and go our own way.**

**Forgive us, and return us to our rightful home in you,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*Pastor Ruth Lowry*

Hear these words from our God:

*Hos. 11:8–11*

I cannot give up on you—

my compassion grows warm and tender.

When my children come trembling,

I will bring them home.

Believe the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! 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**

*Marcus Taylor, Liturgist*

God, we trust that you have our best interests at heart.

*Col. 3:1*

As we hear the reading of your Word,

remind us that we have been raised with Christ, and inspire us to seek the things that are above, through the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE**     Hosea 11:1–11, Colossians 3:1–11, Luke 12:13–21

**SERMON**                     “*What Do You Treasure?*”

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**\*HYMN #335**     “*Though I May Speak*”

**\*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**     *Luke 12:21*

*Through Jesus Christ, God cautions us against storing up riches for ourselves. Let us consider these things and give as our conscience directs us. (We invite you, at this time, to write a check and mail it to the church, if you are able.)*

Offertory     “*Just As I Am, Without One Plea*”     *Christy Connell*

**\*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*

Holy One, we give you thanks for the richness of our lives. Bless these tithes and offerings, that they might be used as expressions of

your steadfast love for those in need near and far. Amen.

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

*Marcus Taylor, Liturgist*

*[A time of silence follows each petition.]*

Loving God, we are much in need  
of your guidance.

Hos. 11:2–4; Psalm 49:2;  
107:43; Luke 12:18

When we wobble and fall, stand us up and help us walk again  
with cords of human kindness and bands of love.

God of Love and Compassion, You say to us:

**“I am to them like those who lift their infants to their cheeks.”**

We pray for the church and for all who teach others  
with kindness, firm guidance, and love.

We pray for peace among nations  
and peace between people.

God of Peace and Restoration, You say to us:

**“I am to them like those who lift their infants to their cheeks.”**

We pray for those suffering the scourge of war  
and the calamities of nature.

We pray for all those in need,  
especially women and children who suffer domestic violence  
and homelessness.

God of Refuge and Hope, You say to us:

**“I am to them like those who lift their infants to their cheeks.”**

We pray for those who are ill,  
their families, and their caregivers.

Give strength to the weary.

Give patience to those who long for the way things “used to be.”

God of Encouragement and Comfort, You say to us:

**“I am to them like those who lift their infants to their cheeks.”**

We pray for those who refuse to give,  
who have more than enough,

but choose to build new barns in which to hoard instead of help.

We pray for the poor, for the mothers whose breasts have dried up,  
for the children who will die of starvation in this day.

God of Justice and Mercy, You say to us:

**“I am to them like those who lift their infants to their cheeks.”**

Loving God, through Jesus Christ you nurture and nourish us.

You love us with a steadfast love:

low and high, rich and poor together.

Renew in us your call and release us from all fear,

that we may heed these things

and consider your steadfast love for all.

Accept all these prayers we offer in faith,

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*

Remember, Beloveds, that life is so short. And that Love is forever. So do not be a fool who stores up riches for yourself, but is poor toward God. But instead, be rich in mercy!

**\*CLOSING HYMN #339**

*"Be Thou, My Vision"*

**BENEDICTION** *(from Col. 3:1, 9-11)*

*Pastor Ruth Lowry*

Now may we be raised with Christ into the things that are above.

May we strip off our old selves and clothe ourselves

in the new self that is renewed in the image of its creator.

And may we find our home in the community

of the Holy Spirit where there is no longer

Jew and Gentile, religious and unreligious,

conservative and liberal, rich and poor,

but where Christ is all and in all!

**POSTLUDE**

*"How He Loves"*

*Christy Connell*