

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 25, 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

September 25, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship

Sixteenth 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

WELCOME AND CONNECTING CHURCH & HOME

***OPENING HYMN #416** *“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation”*

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: When they call to Me, I will answer them, says the Lord.
Ps. 91:15

I will be with them in trouble,

I will rescue and honor them.

With thanksgiving and praise, let us worship God.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Judy Wood, Liturgist

SONG OF PRAISE (*Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16*)

(Responsive)

L: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

P: Will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

L: For the LORD will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;

P: The LORD will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; the LORD's faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

L: You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,

P: Or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

L: Those who love Me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know My name.

P: When they call to Me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

ALL: With long life I will satisfy them, and show them My salvation.

WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP

Christy Connell

“On Eagles Wings”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Ruth Lowry

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sins, that *Luke 16* grace might bridge, and we might cross, the great chasm between us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

Dressed in fine linen, we feast sumptuously every day, *Luke 16* while others long to satisfy their hunger.

We have Moses and the prophets, yet we remain unconvinced, waiting for some human warning.

Forgive us.

In Your mercy, convince and comfort us, and lead us to righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

[silent confession]

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Through Christ we are carried away by the angels, *Luke 16* comforted by Father Abraham, our hunger—satisfied, our agony—cooled, and our sins—forgiven.

Believe the good news: 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

Judy Wood, Liturgist

God of the Prophets, by the power of the Holy Spirit

Jer. 32

speak Your Word to us,

and seal it within us,

that we may heed Your call. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15

1 Timothy 6:6–19

Luke 16:19–31

SERMON

“Living as Those Prepared to Die”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***HYMN #408 (1,2,4-6) “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”**

***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

*We brought nothing into the world, so that we can take 1 Tim. 6
nothing out of the world. Let us give both the gifts we have been
given and our truest selves with glad and generous hearts.*

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

Offertory

“Be Thou My Vision”

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

God who gives life to all things, and richly provides us *1 Tim. 6*

with everything,

use these, our offerings,

to take hold of, and show us,

the life that really is. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (*Psalms 91*)

Judy Wood, Liturgist

One: Lord,

All: we call to You, our refuge,

One: provide Your safe space.

All: We call to You, our fortress,

One: provide Your strength.

All: We call to You, our trust,

One: provide Your vision.

All: We call to You, our deliverer,

One: provide Your promise.

All: We call to You, our cover,

One: provide Your gentleness.

All: We call to You, our faithful,

One: provide Your presence.

All: We call to You, our shield,

One: provide Your defense.

All: We call to You, our bunker,

One: provide Your confidence.

All: We call to You, our protector,

One: provide Your future.

All: We call to You, our rescuer,

One: provide Your breath.

All: We call to You, our satisfaction,

One: provide Your peace.

All: We call to You, our savior,

One: provide Your grace, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
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

Fight the good fight of faith, take hold of the eternal life 1 Tim. 6
to which you were called, take hold of the life that really is.

***CLOSING HYMN #306**

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

BENEDICTION

Pastor Ruth Lowry

Leave in jubilee, knowing, somewhere, in an earthen jar, Jer. 32
is the deed to the land of the Lord, a land of houses and fields and
vineyards, a land of redemption, a land that shall be bought again.

POSTLUDE

"Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow" Christy Connell

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

Like the prophet Amos, Jesus has harsh words for those who live in luxury and ignore the needs of the poor. The epistle reading warns that “the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Tim. 6:10).

What is an appropriate Christian attitude toward wealth? How are we called to treat those who are poor?

Household Prayer: Morning

My God,
out of the darkness
that stalks the night
 you bring the light of morning.
Let my love for you
 not waste at noonday,
 but burn until evening again. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

My God, Most High,
 day is done.
I rest in your shelter,
abide in your shadow,
trust in you. Amen.

