

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 27, 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

November 27, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship

First Sunday of Advent

(* *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 #12 (*verses 1, 4 & 5*)

"People Look East"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jesus Christ is the Hope of the World!

CALL TO WORSHIP AND SALUTATION

Pastor Ruth Lowry

L: I was glad when they said to me,

Ps. 122:1

"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

P: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,

Isa. 2:3

that we may learn God's ways and walk in God's paths.

L: Our feet are standing within Your gates, O Jerusalem. *Ps. 122:2*

ALL: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Isa. 2:5

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michelle Boer, Liturgist

SONG OF PRAISE (*Psalm 122*)

(Responsive)

L: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

P: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

L: Jerusalem built as a city that is bound firmly together.

P: To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

L: For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

P: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

L: Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

P: For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be

within you."

ALL: For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek Your good.

WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP

Christy Connell

"O Come, O Come Immanuel"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Ruth Lowry

You know what time it is:

Rom. 13:11

Now is the time to wake from sleep.

Salvation is near!

Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)

God of night and day,

Rom. 13:12–13

there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from You

and no secret that You will not bring to light.

For our choices that degrade our spirit or bodies,

forgive us, O God.

For the places where we seek our pleasure first and ignore others, forgive us, O God.

For the times that we choose a quarrel over a quiet response, and where we jealously guard and hoard,

forgive us, O God.

O God, forgive us our sins, renew us in love, and teach us to live in a way that brings honor and glory to Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved, in your baptism

Rom. 13:14

you were bathed in light and clothed with grace.

Therefore, put on the Lord Jesus Christ!

Know that you are forgiven, and live in peace.

***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

Michelle Boer, Liturgist

O God of our people

Isa. 2:1-5

and Lord of every nation, let Your Word ring out from the mountains and Your Spirit shine forth in the earth, so that all may hear Your teaching and all may do Your will; through Jesus Christ our peace. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14
 Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON

"Un-Expectations"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN #5

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

*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

Come with gratitude and joy
to the table of the Lord.

Isa. 2:1-5; Ps. 122

Bring the works of your hands and the gifts of your lives as an offering of praise.

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

Offertory

"Mountain Air"

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

We give You thanks and praise, O God,
that You have built us up in faith
and bound us together in love.

Ps. 122:3, 9

By Your grace, may all that we do
show the glory of Your name
and serve the good of Your people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Michelle Boer, Liturgist

[A brief silence may be kept after each intercession.]

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
for the sake of the world that God so loves, let us pray.

Ps. 122:8–9

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Ps. 122:6

We pray for peace in every nation—

Isa. 2:4

**that people will turn their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks
and study war no more.**

Pray for the peace of the church.

We pray for peace in Christ's body—

Rom. 13:11–14

**put an end to fear and fighting,
and help us to proclaim in word and action
the good news of salvation to all.**

Pray for the peace of this community.

We pray for peace in this place—

Ps. 122:6–8

**for safety in our homes and streets,
for the prosperity of our neighbors,
and for the health of family and friends.**

God of the future,

Matt. 24:37

make us ready for the coming of Your reign,
when You will bring everlasting peace

and renew the face of the earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, 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

About that day and hour no one knows.

Matt. 24:36, 42, 44

Therefore keep awake,

for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Be ready, for the Lord will come at an unexpected hour.

***CLOSING HYMN #9**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

BENEDICTION

Pastor Ruth Lowry

May the grace of Christ,

Isa. 2:5

the love of God, and the Spirit's joy surround you

as you walk in the light of the Lord.

POSTLUDE

"There's a Song in the Air"

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

What does it mean to “get your house in order” for the coming of the Lord? Can we ever be perfectly ready for Christ’s return? Why is the coming of the Lord compared to a thief in the night? Is there grace in God’s surprising advent, God’s unexpected arrival?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord God, You have woken me from sleep; *Rom. 13:11–14*
the night is gone, the day is here.
Enable me to put on the Lord Jesus Christ
and help me to live honorably this day,
to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

God, my Savior, You are even nearer now *Rom. 13:11–14*
than when I first learned to trust in You.
Help me to lay aside the burdens of the day
and rest in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
my strength and my salvation. Amen.