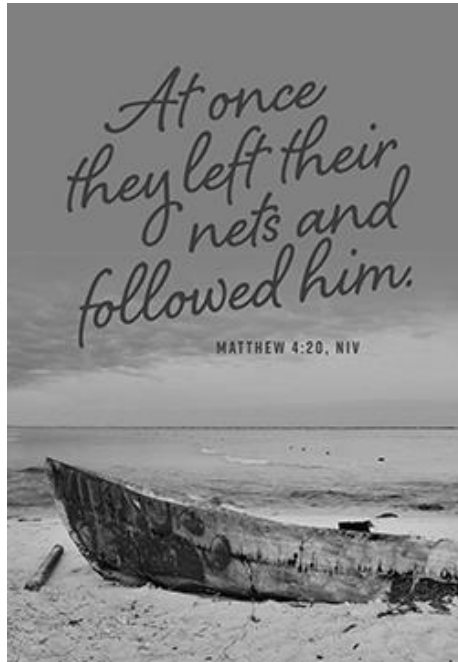


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 22, 2023



## *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

January 22, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

(\* *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 #442

*“The Church’s One Foundation”*

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

*We invite you to light a candle in your home and remember that Jesus Christ IS the Light of the World!*

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND SALUTATION

*Pastor Ruth Lowry*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—

on them light has shined.

*Isa. 9:2; Matt. 4:16*

**Thanks be to God.**

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pat Switzer, Liturgist*

### SONG OF PRAISE (*Psalm 27:1, 4–9*)

*(Responsive)*

L: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**P: One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.**

L: For the Lord will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; our God will conceal me under the cover of God’s tent: the Lord will set me high on a rock.

**P: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

L: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

P: "Come," my heart says, "seek His face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.

**ALL: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!**

**WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP** *Christy Connell*  
*"Depth of Mercy and Search Me, O God"*

**CALL TO CONFESSION** *Pastor Ruth Lowry*  
Let us confess our sins before God,  
the source of freedom and forgiveness.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**Almighty God,**

**we confess that we have not been faithful to You in our thoughts and actions.**

**We have been selfish in our desires and quarrelsome in our relationships.**

**We have allowed fear to divide us from those who seem different,**

**and let distrust separate us from our brothers and sisters.**

**Shine Your light into our darkened hearts.**

**Save us from our divisive ways.**

**Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ who dwells with You and the Holy Spirit**

**in perfect harmony. Amen.**

*1 Cor. 1:10*

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

*Isa. 9:4*

God offers forgiveness to those who turn to God in true repentance.

Therefore, trust in God, who breaks the bonds of our oppression,

and covers us in mercy.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**



and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit.  
This is our common calling,  
to be disciples and servants of our servant Lord.  
Within the community of the church, some are called to particular  
service as teaching elders, as ruling elders, and as deacons.  
Recognizing the importance of each office, the church ordains  
in order to assure fulfillment of the primary responsibilities  
of preaching the Word and administering the sacraments,  
ordering the governance of the church,  
and providing for ministries of care and compassion in the world.

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*With the whole church let us confess our faith.*

*Do you believe in God the Father?*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

*Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?*

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

*Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?*

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### ***Prayer***

**By your power you raised Jesus from death to life.  
Through Christ's victory over the grave**

**we are set free from the bonds of sin and the fear of death to share the glorious freedom of the children of God.**

**In Christ's rising to life you promise eternal life to all who believe in him. We praise you that as we break bread in faith, we shall know the risen Christ among us.**

**You sent your Son Jesus Christ,  
who came not to be served but to serve,  
and to give his life a ransom for many.**

**We praise you that he calls his faithful servants  
to lead your holy people in love; we give you thanks as we  
bear witness, Risen Christ, to your presence among us as  
we welcome Judy Marie as an Elder, in Your Name, Amen.**

### ***Questions of the Incoming Elder***

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

**I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

**I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

**I do, with God's help.**

Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

**I will, with God's help.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

**I do, with God's help.**

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

### *Questions of the Congregation*

*Elder Pat Switzer*

Do we, the members of the church, accept Judy Wood as ruling Elder, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

**We do.**

### **DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION**

Judy Marie, by God's grace, even as you have already been ordained an Elder in the church of Jesus Christ, you are called as elder for this congregation. Be faithful and true in your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ.

### **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

*Pat Switzer, Liturgist*

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

Let us pray to the Lord, saying,  
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God,  
Your light reveals the needs of our world  
and Your salvation offers hope to the lost.  
Therefore we pray for our world and our community.

For Your holy church,  
that all the baptized may live in harmony with one another,  
and our pastors and teachers may be wise and gracious ministers  
of the gospel;  
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

For the world and for all who suffer the rod of oppression:  
break the yoke of violence,  
and free all people from the burden of war and domestic strife;  
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

For the leaders of the nations,  
that they may be just and faithful in their duty  
and serve the good of all creation;  
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer disease of body and mind,  
that they may know the power of Your healing grace;  
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died  
and for those who will die this day,  
that they may find eternal rest;  
and for those who care for the dying  
that they may find peace and comfort.  
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

For other concerns we offer in silence . . .  
*[Silence is kept to allow additional intercessions.]*  
God of light, **hear our prayer.**

Hear, O Lord, the cries of Your people.  
Be gracious to us and answer us,  
for You are our salvation.

*Ps. 27:7*

*Ps. 27:1*



In the name of 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**

Christ call us to be fishers of people  
for the sake of his beloved kingdom.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Pastor Ruth Lowry*

*Matt. 4:19*

**\*CLOSING HYMN #439**

***“In Christ There is No East or West”***

**BENEDICTION**

May the grace of Christ who calls us go with you.  
May the power of the Holy Spirit who empowers us sustain you.  
May the salvation of God who loves us give you peace.

*Pastor Ruth Lowry*

**POSTLUDE**

*“Let All Things Now Living”*     *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”)*



