

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 14, 2023

It is  
God  
who  
works  
in you.

Philippians  
2:13, ESV



## *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

May 14, 2023

10:30 a.m. Worship

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

(\* *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 #108

*"Christ is Alive!"*

### 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

*Rev. Kyle Kooyers*

Bless the Lord, O people, sing!

*Ps. 66:8, 9; Acts 17:24*

**Let the sound of praise ring out.**

Come and hear what the Lord has done,  
**the Lord who has made everything!**

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Sharon Chambers, Liturgist*

### SONG OF PRAISE (*Psalm 66:8-20*)

*(Responsive)*

L: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of God's praise be heard,

P: Who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

L: For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried.

**P: You brought us into the net; You laid burdens on our backs;**

L: You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet You have brought us out to a spacious place.

**P: I will come into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows,**

L: Those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

**P: I will offer to You burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.**

L: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what the Lord has done for me.

**P: I cried aloud to God, and God was extolled with my tongue.**

L: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

**P: But truly God has listened; the Lord has given heed to the words of my prayer.**

**ALL: Blessed be God, because our God has not rejected my prayer or removed God's steadfast love from me.**

**WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP**

*Christy Connell*

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Kyle Kooyers*

Brother and sisters,  
God not only asks us to repent,  
but also assures us of forgiveness.  
Therefore, let us confess our sins  
to the one who is steadfast love.

*Ps. 66:20; Acts 17:30*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)**

**Loving God,  
we do not always keep Your commandments;  
we fail to love You;  
our conscience is not clear.  
Wash us in the water of life  
that we may live again  
through the grace and mercy of Jesus,  
our resurrected Savior. Amen.**

*1 Pet. 3:16, 21;*

*John 14:15, 21*

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Sisters and brothers,  
God forgives, restores, and strengthens us  
through the risen Christ.

*1 Pet. 3:21, 22;*

*John 14:16, 18*

Know that you are forgiven  
and be at 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** *Sharon Chambers, Liturgist*  
Come Holy Spirit, our helper and advocate: *John 14:16, 17*  
Open our hearts and minds this day,  
entice us with Your presence.  
Spark us with a word of life—  
a message that we may share with others  
as we seek to live Christ’s love in the world.  
All this we ask in the name of God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us. **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE** *Philippians 1:27-2:15; John 14:15–21*

**SERMON** *“From the Inside Out” Rev. Kyle Kooyers*

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**\*HYMN #359** *“More Love to Thee, O Christ”*

**\*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

*God, the divine giver, Acts 17:24; Ps. 66:15  
gifts us with life and breath and all that is. In gratitude, let us offer  
our gifts in return for the goodness and grace of God in Christ.  
(We invite you, at this time, to write a check and mail it to the  
church, if you are able.)*

Offertory “Be Still, My Soul” 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*

O loving God, we give You thanks *1 Pet. 3:16;*  
that You have placed in the hearts of Your *John 14:15–21*  
faithful people the gift of generosity and the desire to keep  
Your commands. Bless these gifts and use them to reveal to all  
tribes, nations, and peoples Your love in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

*Sharon Chambers, Liturgist*

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

The Lord be with you.

*Acts 17:27–29; Ps. 66:8–20;*

**And also with you.**

*1 Pet. 3:13–15; John 14:15–21*

Let us give thanks to God who listens and gives heed to our  
prayers.

**We praise and we bless You, our true and loving God.**

We pray for all who search for You:

may they find their way in You.

Bless us with lips that sing Your praise

and lives that tell the stories of all that You have done for us.

Open our eyes to find You among us

as we share Your love with others.

Lord in Your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who are oppressed by governments  
or institutions:

for those whose voices are not heard or believed, those with no one  
on their side.

Bless us with a joy for justice and the strength to persevere as we  
work toward Your coming realm.

Lord in Your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who hunger, and those who worry each day how  
they will care for their families.

Bless us all with meaningful work and fill us with good things,  
as we love and care for each other and find our sustenance in You.

Lord in Your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer the violence and scars of war, for all  
soldiers and their families, and all who live and serve in war-torn  
places. Give them courage in the face of fear; in times of trouble,  
do not let their feet slip.

Bless us with Your vision of peace, for You have made us one  
family by giving life and breath to all.

Lord in Your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We remember before You all who have died, and pray for all who  
will die today, that they may know Your peace.

Bless us with the gift of faith, that we may know You and love  
You, and enjoy life eternal shared with You,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and 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**

Sisters and brothers,

God has heard you and given heed to your prayers.

Therefore, go in peace to serve Christ,  
and always be eager to do what is good.

*Rev. Kyle Kooyers*

*Ps. 66:19; 1 Pet. 3:12*

**\*CLOSING HYMN #403**

***“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”***

**BENEDICTION**

*Rev. Kyle Kooyers*

May God, who creates, redeems, and sustains, keep you steadfast in faith, buoyant in hope, and abounding in love.

And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**POSTLUDE**

*"How Great Is Our God"*

*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”)*



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