

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday*

April 5, 2026

# Christ Is Risen!

CHRIST  
IS RISEN  
INDEED

*Alleluia*

*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

April 5, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship

## *Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day*

(\* *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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS      *Marcus Taylor, Liturgist*

#### ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRIUNE GOD

Come to us today, O God.

**Come to us with light.**

*(the candle is lit)*

Speak to us today, O God.

**Speak to us Your truth.**

*(the Bible is opened)*

Dwell with us to us today, O God.

**Dwell with us in love.**

*(the Cross is draped)*

Renew us today, O God.

**Renew us by Your Holy Spirit.**

*(the Font is filled)*

#### WE CENTER OURSELVES AS WE WORSHIP

*Christy Connell*

*“Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia”*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

*Nathan Martens*

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

**The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

This is the good news we have received,  
In which we stand, and by which we are saved:  
**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

That Christ died for our sins, and was buried,  
And rose again on the third day.  
**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

He appeared to Peter, and to the twelve,  
And to many faithful witnesses.  
**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

At last he came to us, that we might come to believe  
And proclaim this good news to the world.  
**Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**\*OPENING HYMN #123**

***“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”***

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

*Nathan Martens*

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness  
that we may enter through them.

*Ps. 118:19*

Confident in God’s love, let us confess our sin.

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

**Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit  
we have been raised from the waters of baptism  
to share in Your glorious resurrection.**

*Col. 3:1*

**Yet we have not lived as Easter people.**

**We are unsure of Your promise, confused about Your will,  
and afraid in the face of danger.**

**Like Mary, we weep at the tomb, but do not recognize  
Your presence.**

*John 20:11*

**Call us by name, risen Lord, that we may know  
You with confidence.**

*John 20:16*

**Whenever we are tempted to fear death,  
give us courage to confess Your Easter victory.  
Whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts,**

**keep our minds on Your reconciling love.**

**Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil, reveal again to us Your triumph over the destructive powers of oppression.**

**Forgive us our sin and let our lives be a testimony to Your salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Listen, church:

God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to death.

*Ps. 118:18*

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*HYMN #106 -- OUR GLORIOUS RESPONSE (verses 1 and 2)**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Give thanks to the risen Lord,**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Give praise to his name.**

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth**

**He is the King of creation.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Give thanks to the risen Lord,**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Give praise to his name.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth,**

**Jesus has died and risen.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Give thanks to the risen Lord,**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Give praise to his name.**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Marcus Taylor, Liturgist*

Almighty God,

by the power of Your Spirit roll away the stone

*John 20:1*

and reveal to us the Word of Life.

**Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE** Jeremiah 31:1-6; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

# PSALM 118:14-24 -- A PARAPHRASE FOR EASTER

*Refrain*

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise;

give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Refrain*

GOD's my strength, he's also my song, and now he's my salvation.  
Hear the shouts, hear the triumph songs in the camp of the saved?

**"The hand of GOD has turned the tide!**

**The hand of GOD is raised in victory!**

**The hand of GOD has turned the tide!"** *Refrain*

I didn't die. I lived! And now I'm telling the world what GOD did.  
GOD tested me, he pushed me hard, but didn't hand me over to Death.

**Swing wide the city gates—the righteous gates!**

**I'll walk right through and thank GOD!**

**This Temple Gate belongs to GOD,**

**so the victors can enter and praise.** *Refrain*

Thank you for responding to me; you've truly become my salvation!  
The stone the masons discarded as flawed is now the capstone!

**This is GOD's work.**

**We rub our eyes—we can hardly believe it!**

**This is the very day GOD acted—**

**let's celebrate and be festive!** *Refrain*

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Words: Herbert F. Brokering (1926-2009) © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Publishers  
Music (EARTH AND ALL STARS fragment): David N. Johnson (1922-1987) © 1968 Augsburg Fortress Publishers  
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*(Please Remain Seated)*

SERMON

Nathan Martens

## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

\*HYMN #104

*“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”*

\*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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Marcus Taylor, Liturgist*

*(A time of silence follows each petition.)*

Let us unite our hearts in prayer, saying,  
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the Church throughout the world, that as we celebrate the feast of Jesus’ resurrection, we may renew our faith and strengthen our witness in Jesus’ name.

God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For pastors, teachers, and ministers, that they be wise in leadership, humble in service, and fearless in the face of evil;

God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the governments of the world and its leaders, that they may practice compassion and reject the politics that use death and suffering as means of control;

God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our planet Earth, that people may be good stewards of its resources and share in its abundance;

God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the poor and the stranger,  
that they may receive a place of refuge, hope, and hospitality;  
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and those in distress, that they may find healing for  
their pain and be restored to fullness of life;  
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our neighbors, that together we may dwell in harmony;  
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our enemies, that we may love them and be agents of  
reconciliation in the name of Jesus;  
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, receive these prayers we offer,  
and by the power of Your Holy Spirit  
use us for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.  
In His name we 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.**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**                      *Marcus Taylor, Liturgist*  
*God has given us life in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
*In gratitude, let us offer our hearts and the fruit of our labor to*  
*God's service.*

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

*Offertory*                      *"Joy in the Morning"*                      *Choir*

**\*THE DOXOLOGY #592**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION**                      *Liturgist*

Almighty God, by Your grace, accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives in union with our risen Lord who lives and reigns with You forever.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN #118**

***“The Day of Resurrection”***

**THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*Nathan Martens*

Receive the good news: Christ is risen from the dead!

Tell the good news: the power of death shall no more oppress us.

Live the good news: we are free to love as Christ has loved us!

May God who raised Jesus from the dead bless you and by the power of the Holy Spirit raise you with Christ in glory. *Col. 3:4*

**CHORAL BENEDICTION**

***“A Choral Blessing”***

**BENEDICTION / POSTLUDE** ***“The Hallelujah Chorus” (Handel)***

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (x2)

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (x4)

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (x7)

The kingdom of this world is become  
the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ,  
and of His Christ;

And He shall reign for ever and ever,

King of kings, and Lord of lords. (x3)

and Lord of lords,

and He shall reign, and He shall reign for ever and ever,

for ever and ever,

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

And He shall reign for ever and ever, for ever and ever.

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

And He shall reign for ever and ever,

King of kings! and Lord of lords!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

## **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” and from the PCUSA “Book of Common Worship.”*

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### ***Questions for Reflection***

When Mary Magdalene first saw the resurrected Jesus, she did not recognize him, even though she knew the tomb was empty. Have you ever experienced the presence of the risen Christ, even when you were not expecting him? Are there times you have been in the presence of the risen Christ but have not recognized him? How would you know?

### ***Household Prayer: Morning***

Jesus, victorious Lord, I exult in Your resurrection. As I sing “alleluia” with my voice, let my life embody “alleluia” as a testimony to Your love and a witness to Your eternal life. Amen.

### ***Household Prayer: Evening***

Lord, the days of sadness are over, for You have risen from the dead. As You conquered the grave, free Your servant from fear of harm or death, that I may rest in peace this night and in the morning rise to sing “alleluia.” Amen.

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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