

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 18, 2026

Worship at his
HOLY MOUNTAIN;
for the LORD our GOD
is holy.

Psalm 99:9



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

October 18, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship

21st Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 24)

(*) 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

"Close to Thee"

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

Nathan Martens

L: In this place,

**P: friends and stranger meet,
the broken are mended,
and the weary are welcomed.**

L: In this moment,

**P: the ordinary becomes miraculous,
and life is on pause.
This is God's time.**

L: In this sanctuary,

**P: God's goodness is revealed.
Our doors open with kindness.
Our lives join together.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of goodness,
We thank you for choosing us.
Teach us your good news,
that we might be brought to life:
every blessing we receive
and every kindness we encounter
is your Spirit whispering peace. **Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN #139**

“Come Thou Almighty King”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Nathan Martens

The Lord says:

Exod. 33:19

I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I will
have compassion.

Let us now confess our sin,
casting ourselves on the promised mercy and
compassion of God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Responsive*)

The Lord reigns!

Ps. 99:1–4

Majestic God, do we tremble in awe before you?

[silence]

The Lord reigns!

Worthy God, have we raised your name in praise?

[silence]

The Lord reigns!

Sovereign God, have we executed justice?

[silence]

The Lord reigns!

We bow before you, holy God.

Forgive us.

Cleanse us.

Free us.

In the strong name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Nathan Martens

The Lord said to Moses:

Exod. 33:21, 22

There is a place near me

where you may stand upon a rock.

When my glory passes by,

I'll put you in a cleft in the rock.

I will cover you with my hand

until I have passed by.

Beloved ones, God has shielded us,

covered our sin

with the hand of protection,

as we hide ourselves in Christ,

the rock of our salvation.

***OUR GLORIOUS RESPONSE -- GLORIA PATRI**

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

Marcus Taylor, Liturgist

Holy Spirit,

1 Thess. 1:5

illumine for us this Word,

that the message of the gospel

may come to us in power.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE Thessalonians 1:1–10; Matt. 22:15–22

HYMN OF PREPARATION #339 “*Be Thou My Vision*”
(Please Remain Seated)

SERMON

Nathan Martens

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***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.

***HYMN #390**

“O Savior in this Quiet Place”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Marcus Taylor, Liturgist

(A time of silence follows each petition.)

Loving God, you are steadfast, forever enfolding
even when we cannot accept ourselves.

1 Thess. 1:4–7

May your Spirit empower us to imitate you:
by receiving those who feel judged and rejected,
by walking alongside those who despair,
by encouraging those who tend to the broken,
by affirming those who labor in love.

We lift into your tender care
those whose bodies, minds, or spirits have been
weakened or crushed.

We lift up to your compassionate grace
those whose burdens, guilt, or fears seem too massive to bear.

We lift before your expansive mercy
those whose hatred, rage, or vengeance cannot be contained.

Receive all these cares, loving God,
and fill us with the light of Christ,
through the work of your Spirit.

In the name of Jesus, 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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Marcus Taylor, Liturgist

*Jesus invites us to render to God the things
that are God's.*

Matt. 22:21

Trusting in God's infinite care, we gratefully present our offerings.

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

Offertory

Christy Connell

"You Raise Me Up"

***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**

Marcus Taylor, Liturgist

We trust you, Lord God,

1 Thess. 1:5

to multiply the blessings these gifts represent,

as we pour out your love and grace

on those who long to hear your word to them,

to see your power at work within them,

to feel your comfort beside them,
through the generous gifts of your Spirit. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN (BULLETIN)**

“Jesus Calls Us”

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Nathan Martens

Brothers and sisters,
beloved by God who has chosen you,
the gospel has come to you not only in word,
but also in power,
and in the Holy Spirit
with full conviction!
Go out now in joy.
Be an example to all,
empowered to love the unlovable
and forgive the unforgivable
in the grace-filled name of Jesus Christ.

1 Thess. 1:5–7

May God tuck us securely
into the cleft of the rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ.
May we sense the inexpressible awe
of God’s glory passing over us.
And may we rest in the peace that passes all understanding,
now and forevermore.

Exod. 33:22

POSTLUDE

Christy Connell

“Rejoice, The Lord is King”

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

What does it mean to be an “imitator of Christ” (1 Thess. 1:6)? Who has influenced your life by the way that person “imitates” Christ, and how? What needs to happen within you to help you become an imitator of Christ?

Household Prayer: Morning

I listen quietly, Lord,
and the morning sounds of creation draw me to you.
It is then that I hear your voice,
“I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”
Sometimes it is difficult to fully receive your pleasure in me,
to grasp that you are fond of me,
even when I have nothing to show for myself.
May I remember that I am yours today.
Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

I fold up this day with gratitude,
holding close to my heart
those whose faith helped carry me through this day.
Amen.

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