

Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 23, 2022 at 10:30 AM

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24

AMHERST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Presbyterian Church in the USA
All Are Welcome

*** We invite you to please stand, as you are able, for items preceded by an asterisk.**

PRELUDE: Adante Religioso by *Handel*

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** Open Our Eyes, Lord # 2086 (*Sing the Faith*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Let the ears of all people be attentive;
the heavens are telling the glory of God.

**People: Everything around us proclaims God's handiwork.
Let us bow down and worship our Creator.**

Liturgist: Day and night, God is at work among us.
We are drawn together into one body, the church.

**People: As we commune with God, we know we need one another.
Let us honor the good to be found in all people.**

Liturgist: Hear once again the laws and commandments.
Find them sure and right and true for all.

**People: We weep and mourn our lack of faithfulness.
We seek true community in which all are honored.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Sometimes, God, we do not know what to confess. We seek to keep your law, but the right course is not always clear. We want to follow your direction, but it is hard to discern what is true. Sometimes it is difficult to care about people whose values are different from ours. How can we be one with those who do not share our beliefs? At times, our own faith is shaken—our faith in ourselves and our faith in you. We need your help, God, so our sins will not have dominion over us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

Do not weep or mourn before the law of God. Rather, let the law revive your soul and enlighten your eyes. The Spirit of God is eager to teach, inspire, and strengthen you. Desire to know the purpose of God. Pursue understanding more than riches. God is your Rock and your Redeemer.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

Pastor: "The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you..."

People: "...and also with you."

* **HYMN:** Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! # 138

FIRST READING

Liturgist

Nehemiah 8:1-10 (*page 436 of the Old Testament*)

SECOND READING

Luke 4:14-21

Pastor

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Pastor: The Word of God, to all people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The Bible”

Pastor

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION ~ *Please observe this time of silence.*

* **HYMN:** Great Is Thy Faithfulness # 276

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical)

(in unison)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor

THE LORD’S PRAYER

(in unison)

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

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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.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

We are part of the body of Christ which extends around the world. Together, we form a caring community, united in spite of many differences in appearance, understanding, and function. If others are suffering, we, too, will suffer. When we have the ability to help, it is a joy to do so. May our offerings preach good news, proclaim liberty, and recover among us all the ability to see and hear and respond.

OFFERTORY: *Adagio* *by Schubert*

* **DOXOLOGY:** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow # 592

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER** *(in unison)*

In the spirit of Christ, we give our best for the world. Your rule among us, O God, is more to be desired than riches. Therefore, we share what you have allowed us to use, giving thanks for the joy of helping others and entering into partnership with them. This is only the beginning of our offering, for we dedicate here our varied gifts as apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, helpers, administrators, speakers, workers. In all we do, we will seek to serve you by sharing your love. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: May the words of our mouths proclaim God's love.
May the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.

People: We go forward as praying, witnessing people.
We greet this week with high anticipation.

Pastor: The Spirit of God accompanies us on our journey.
We are anointed for the sharing of good news.

People: Our words and deeds will release captives.
What we do and say will change our world.

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Pastor: The joy of God is our strength.
The law of God revives us and makes us wise.

People: **In purity of heart, we seek to serve.**
In quiet confidence, we dare to change and grow.

ALL: **Amen.**

* **HYMN:** Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

POSTLUDE: Gigue by *Corelli*

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:	The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous
Music Director:	Donna Lorenzo
Liturgist:	Tom Potts
Usher:	Roberta Jones

Devotion of the Week

Let us re-read **Nehemiah 8:1-10** and **Luke 4:14-21**.

Questions for your meditation:

Reflect on the gift of the Bible. What does this book mean to you? What can we learn from it?

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — January 23, 2022

- Our current safety guidelines can be found on the back of your bulletin.
- The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be immediately following the worship service on **Sunday, January 30**. Members may attend in-person or remotely via Zoom. The Zoom link will be published in the newsletter. If you will attend remotely and need the docket emailed to you, please contact the church office this week.
- We are going to start a **Bell Choir** and we will need quite a few people! No music reading required! There will be an informational meeting directly after church today in Fellowship Hall.
- Please see your bulletin insert for information about the **Toy & Game Drive** we're holding to help local Afghan children. All items are due by **Sunday, February 13**.
- The Evangelism and Outreach Committee is planning a **rummage sale** on **Saturday, June 11th**. We will need many people to help with the planning and set up, and to work on the day of the sale. If you are interested in helping, please call Jerry Bower at 716-907-0835 or send an email to: jpbower54@verizon.net. Thank you in advance.
- If you need a new sheet of envelope stickers, please call or email the church office.

Next week — **Sunday, January 30**

- ♦ Worship Service at **10:30 AM**
- ♦ Annual Congregational Meeting at **11:45 AM**

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Our friends and family in care facilities and at home, including:
Doreen Connolly, Joan Hambleton, John Kelley Jr., Betty Knowl,
Lois McMillan, Mel Palmer, Gail Trankle

Please observe the following safety guidelines for in-person worship:

- ◇ Per the Erie County Mask Mandate, anyone in an indoor, public location, is required to wear a mask/face covering.
- ◇ Everyone attending the worship service is asked to please wear a mask for the duration of the service, including while singing.
- ◇ People who are not from the same household are encouraged to sit 6 feet apart in the sanctuary.
- ◇ Worship leaders may temporarily remove their masks while speaking during the service if they are at least 12 feet away from others.
- ◇ If you haven't done so already, please sign the attendance sheet in the Narthex.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Phone: 716-633-4656 / **Email:** AmherstPC@verizon.net

Office hours: 9:00am—1:00pm, Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Rev. Amir's Cell: 773-961-6977 / **Email:** APCpastor@verizon.net

Rev. Amir's hours: 9:00am—12:30pm, Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, and by appointment
(scheduling your visit is recommended)

Church website: <https://amherstpreshurch.com>

Facebook: Amherst Presbyterian Church—closed group; ask to be invited