

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 in Lent

March 20, 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: Sarabande by Bohm

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* INTROIT: Be Thou My Vision # 339 (*Verses 1 and 3*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.
You who have no money, come, buy, and eat!

**People: Our souls thirst for God in a dry and weary land.
We seek God's power and glory in the sanctuary.**

Liturgist: Listen carefully to God and eat what is good;
delight yourselves in the rich food God provides.

**People: Here our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast.
Together our mouths praise God with joyful lips.**

Liturgist: God offers us steadfast love and a covenant relationship.
We are called to be faithful witnesses and leaders.

**People: We have come to meditate on the living God.
We seek inspiration and empowerment to do what God asks.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

We have been tempted, loving God, to go our own way without reference to eternal truths. We seek our own gratification rather than the well-being of all your children. We compare ourselves to others and find their failures but seldom discover our own shortcomings. We seek to build our lives by our own limited design rather than by your larger purposes. We engage in immorality in the name of freedom and become enslaved by our selfish ambitions. The ground on which we stand is crumbling under our feet. O God, forgive us and grant us a firmer foundation. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

God grants us strength to overcome temptation and offers us a second chance to produce the fruits of repentance. Receive these gifts from God who is faithful, in covenant with us and all people. Open yourselves to the continued guidance of the Holy One, for God's steadfast love is better than life. God's mercy is abundant; God's provision for us is extravagant. God's ways are higher than our own. Praise God with joyful lips.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** O for a Closer Walk with God # 396

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

Liturgist

- ¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,

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for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

SECOND READING

Luke 13:1-9

Pastor

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?” ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Lent and the Divine Mercy”

Pastor

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

* **HYMN:** His Eye Is on the Sparrow # 2146 (*Sing the Faith*)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(in unison)

A Brief Statement of Faith (Lines 1-26)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

(in unison)

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

Why do we use our money for things that do not satisfy, or invest our time in activities without meaning or purpose? God offers us a way of life that satisfies. What we cannot buy, God freely gives us. Our offerings are one way of expressing our thanks.

OFFERTORY: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy by Faber

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

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

All that we present to you now, O God, we have received from your hand. We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive pure water. We share to

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send the good news of your Word to those who have not heard. We invest in just causes, that your mercy may be known among all people. Most of all, we give because passing on your gifts in generous response is necessary to life. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: God sends us out as witnesses to good news.
May our lips praise God as long as we live.

**People: God's steadfast love is better than life;
God's mercy and pardon break through life's clouds.**

Pastor: Call on God in the midst of each day's tasks;
meditate on God's presence through the night.

**People: God is our help in all times and places;
we will call on God's name wherever we are.**

Pastor: God will grant us strength to resist temptation
and vision to labor for what truly satisfies.

**People: Praise God, whose waters quench our thirst.
Thank God for the bread of life that feeds our souls.**

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: In Christ Alone by Getty

Today's Worship Team

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

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — March 20, 2022

- Our updated safety guidelines can be found on the back of your bulletin.
- Today's flowers are from Barb Bunce, who is wishing a Happy Birthday to Mark!
- The APC Bell Choir will meet after worship today.
- *Save the Date!* Amherst Presbyterian Church will be having a “Shop for a Cause” event at the Carousel Shop on Main Street. On **Thursday May 5th**, APC will receive 15% of the value of all purchases made **between 3PM and 7 PM**. Vintage goods, locally made handicrafts, food items and more. Flyers are on the Courtyard and Fellowship/Community bulletin boards.
- Our Mission Committee is collecting a special offering throughout Lent, to be given to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to provide humanitarian aid to those in Ukraine and those serving Ukrainian refugees in surrounding countries. Please specify “Ukraine” on these gifts.
- APC is also participating in the PC(USA)'s One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent. These gifts are used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through 3 programs: disaster assistance, hunger relief, and community investment to combat racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice. Informational fliers and special envelopes are on the table in the Narthex.

Next week — **Sunday, March 27** — Worship Service at **10:30 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, Gail Trankle

Safety guidelines for in-person worship:

- ◇ Masks are optional; use of them is at the discretion of each individual. The masks in the Narthex are available to anyone who needs one.
- ◇ Hand sanitizer can be found at the entrance of the church and at various locations throughout the building.
- ◇ If you haven't done so already, please sign the attendance sheet in the Narthex.

Devotion of the Week

Let us re-read **Isaiah 55:1-9** and **Luke 13:1-9**.

Question for your meditation:

The season of Lent offers us another chance to repent and return to God. How can we best embrace God's mercy in our lives and spiritual practice?



CONTACT INFORMATION

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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://amherstpreschurch.com>

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