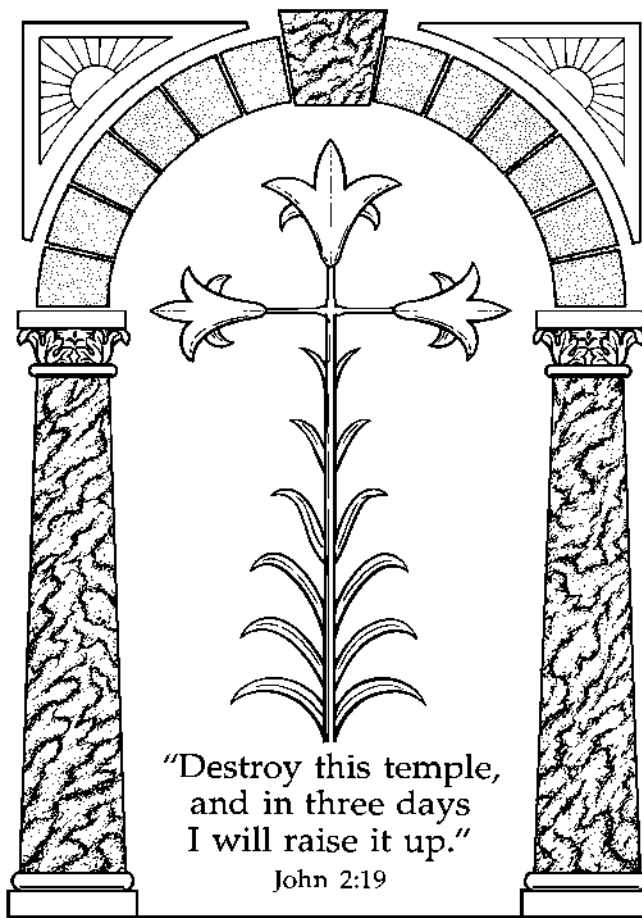


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



3rd Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024 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: Our Father, Which Art in Heaven Bach

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* **INTROIT:** He Has Made Me Glad # 2270 (*Sing the Faith*) - sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: The heavens are telling the glory of God.
 The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

People: **We celebrate the steadfast love of God, our Creator.**
 Surely God is faithful to all who live in covenant.

Liturgist: From the sun's rising to its setting, the creation speaks.
 Day and night, earth's creatures announce God's works.

People: **The commandments of God are clear, enlightening the eyes.**
 God's law is perfect, calling forth our best.

Liturgist: God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.
 God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

People: **The ordinances of God are true and righteous.**
 In following them, we gain wisdom and strength.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

We have come to your temple, loving God, because this is your place, not ours. We confess that we sometimes forget whose house this is. We forget that all the world belongs to you as we scramble for all we can claim for ourselves. Our actions deny your love, which is at the heart of your perfect law. Our minds have justified the bending and breaking of your law to suit current trends and feelings. We cry out for forgiveness and the opportunity for a fresh start. Clear us of hidden faults and redeem us from those we recognize and confess.
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

When our prayers become more than pious words; when, in awe before God, we truly seek forgiveness; the Almighty becomes for us a guiding presence. We are healed, strengthened, and set free from our slavery to sin. In steadfast love, God claims us, saying: You are my people. Dare to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* HYMN: How Firm a Foundation # 463 (purple)

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

Liturgist

(please turn to page 66 of the Old Testament in your pew Bible)

SECOND READING

John 2:13-22

Pastor

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON**“One Temple and One Body”***Pastor***MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION** ~ *Please observe this time of silence.**** HYMN:** I Love to Tell the Story # 462 (purple)**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH***(in unison)*

Adapted from The Confession of 1967

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes our natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. God wills that God's purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ, and all evil be banished from God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

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 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*

The commandments invite us to a sabbath time in which we give ourselves

(continued on next page)

completely to the worship of God. The gifts we bring are important, but even more, we are invited to commit ourselves to God's foolishness, to the way of love. May it be our passion to extend love to all of earth's people.

OFFERTORY: O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus Francis

* **DOXOLOGY:** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow # 606

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

We bring our offerings, O God, not to buy your favor, but to express our gratitude, not to support an institution, but to further your mission. We support the church in its efforts to challenge the false wisdom that pervades our culture. We seek to make this community of faith a center of values that are consistent with your will. May we be zealous in your service, willing to sacrifice for love's sake, and eager to embrace your word in our everyday living. Amen.

* **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: You have been embraced by God's power and love.
Dare to face the world, bearing God's wisdom.

People: **We proclaim the crucified one, Jesus Christ.**
The power of love is not destroyed by death.

Pastor: Be careful in your use of God's name.
Live in awe that God chooses you as a witness.

People: **The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.**
The precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart.

Pastor: The scriptures will guide us toward God's truth.
God's steadfast love will sustain us.

People: **We will seek to keep the spirit of the commandments.**
Self-giving love toward God and humanity will guide us.

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: Beulah Land/I'll Fly Away Arr.

Today's Worship Team

Ministers: The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous
Guest Organist: Nancy Lorenzo-Deleys
Liturgist: Tom Potts
Vocalists: APC Singers

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

Devotion of the Week

Let us read ***Exodus 20:1-17*** and ***John 2:13-22***.

Questions for your meditation:

Where does God show up most often in your life of faith? At church? In creation? When you're alone? With others?

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — March 3, 2024

- The Deacons will meet today at Noon in Fellowship Hall.
- Please note that the Rachael Circle has moved their March meeting to the 5th. The time and location will be the same as usual, at Noon in Fellowship Hall.
- On Sunday, March 10 after the worship service, everyone should plan to stay for both the Finger Foods Luncheon hosted by our Deacons, and the joint Elder-Deacon Meeting to review APC's 2023 goals and develop goals for 2024.
- The next Session meeting will be on Monday, March 11 at 7:00 PM, via Zoom.
- Every week this month we're having "Undies Sundays" to collect new undergarments for Friends of the Night People, an organization that provides basic necessities to those experiencing hunger, poverty and homelessness in Buffalo, NY. See one of our Deacons, our newsletter, or the sign on the box in the Narthex for details about sizes and styles of socks and underwear most needed.
- Just a few weeks left to place your Easter Flower orders! Choose from Daffodils, Hyacinths, Irises, and Tulips, each for \$9 per 6" potted plant or 3 for \$25. Give the enclosed order form to Lois Potts by March 17th.
- Special envelopes and flyers are available in the Narthex throughout the month of March for the PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing. Your gifts help support critical programs including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People program.
- We are in need of a few more volunteers for communion this month, which will be served on the 24th for Palm Sunday and the 31st for Easter. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the Nursery, or call/email the church office.
- Last, but certainly not least, is a reminder to keep thinking about who you would like to invite to our Easter Sunday service on March 31st. Invitation letters are available from the church office if you would like one for your guest.

Next week — ***Sunday, March 10***

10:30 AM - Worship Service

11:30 AM - Finger Foods Luncheon

12:00 PM - Joint Elder-Deacon Meeting

Amherst Presbyterian Church

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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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