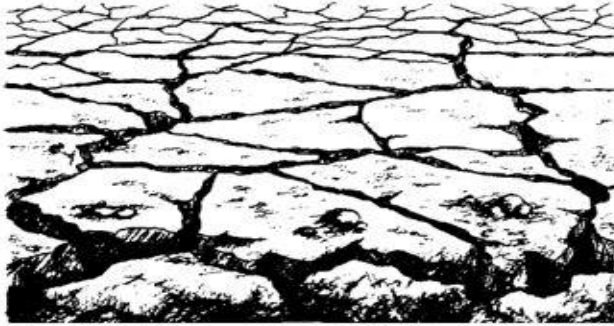


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



Spiritually Dry

&

Spiritually Fulfilled



Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 22, 2023 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: How Brightly Shines the Morning Star by Buxtehude

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** The First Song of Isaiah # 2030 (*Sing the Faith*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Come, all who have known gloom and anguish.

 Come, all who have walked amid terrors of the night.

People: **Sometimes we have felt oppressed and forsaken.**
 Our losses seem greater than we can bear.

Liturgist: God is our light and our salvation.

 God is our stronghold; we need not fear.

People: **Enemies lose their power when we look up to God.**
 We come now, seeking God's face.

Liturgist: Come, behold the beauty of our God.

 Come to find shelter in a day of trouble.

People: **We will sing and make melody to God.**
 We will dare to lift up shouts of joy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Turn our lives around, God. Help us to identify in ourselves those parts of us that need to change if we are to experience your joy. Too long we have been hiding in the shadows, reluctant to express our faith. Too long we have shunned the light, afraid of what might be exposed. Too long we have avoided people with whom we have a quarrel, refusing to build bridges across our differences. Save us from ourselves that we may enjoy your realm. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

Light has come. Salvation is poured out on those who accept it. God is gracious and reaches out to welcome us. We are free to accept the invitation to follow Jesus. There is good news of forgiveness and healing to be shared; let us do so as faithful servants.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

People: “....and also with you.”

* **HYMN:** God Is My Strong Salvation # 179

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 27:1-9

Pastor: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Liturgist: When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.

Pastor: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

Liturgist: One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

Pastor: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Liturgist: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Pastor: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

(continued on next page)

Liturgist: ‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’ Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Pastor: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON **“Spiritually Dry and Spiritually Fulfilled”** *Pastor*

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

*** HYMN:** As the Deer # 2025 (*Sing the Faith*) (Sing Twice)

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(in unison)*

A Brief Statement of Faith (Lines 52-76)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

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

What can we do to send the message of the cross to those who think it is foolishness? How will the gospel be proclaimed to people who are perishing, both within and far beyond this church? One way is through the sharing of resources God has given us — our time, talent, and treasure. Let us give with joy.

OFFERTORY: The Lily of the Valley by Hays

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

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

Let these gifts follow Christ's lead into the lives of people who live in poverty or despair. O God, use them to heal divisions among your children. Show us how to be instruments of peace. Ready us to follow Jesus, to make an offering of ourselves, not just our money. Teach us so we may teach others. Heal us so we can become instruments of healing. To these purposes we dedicate this offering and our lives. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: People of light, turn to face a new week.
 People of joy, enter your daily routines empowered.

People: **God is our light and our salvation.**
 We will not be afraid to live our joy.

Pastor: People of unity, seek to overcome divisions.
 People of commitment, dare to follow Jesus.

(continued on next page)

People: Christ is our example and our leader.
We will care enough to fish for people.

Pastor: God is gracious to us and blesses us.
We are being saved by the power of God.

People: God offers us life in the heavenly realm.
We can begin to experience it here and now.

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: Suite in D (attributed to Leonardo Da Vinci)

Today's Worship Team

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

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

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — January 22, 2023

- Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be on **Sunday, January 29**, after the worship service. Please plan to attend this important meeting to review the past year and plan for the new year.
- Annual Giving Statements for 2022 are on the table in the Narthex. Any not picked up by the end of the month will be mailed.
- On Sunday, February 19, after worship, there will be a Joint Mission Meeting. All Elders and Deacons are asked to please attend.
- Mark your calendar... the Saturday Breakfast Speaker that was postponed this past November has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 25!

Next week — ***Sunday, January 29***

10:30 AM - Worship Service

11:30 AM - Annual Congregational Meeting

Devotion of the Week

Let us read ***Psalms 27:1-9***.

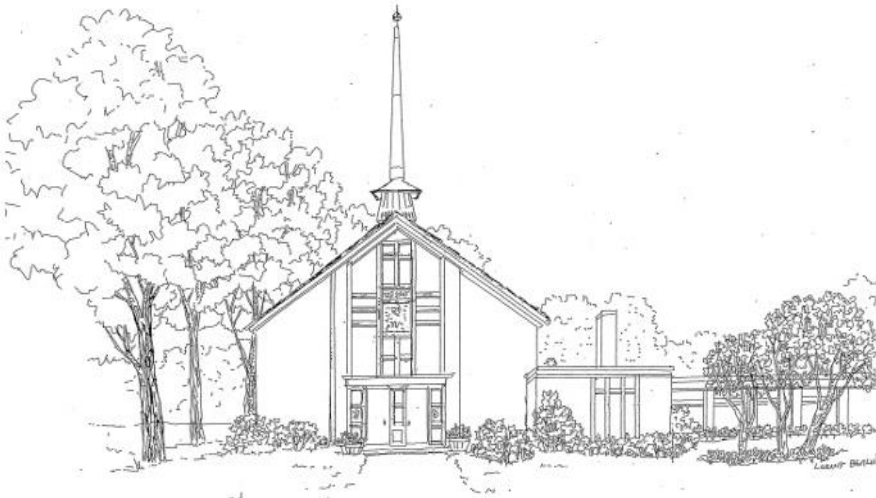
Questions for your meditation:

Have you ever known a time when you felt spiritually dry? What do you think brought on this season? When have you experienced God intimately and closely? How can these experiences aid your future walk of faith?

Amherst Presbyterian Church

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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://amherstpreshurch.com>

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