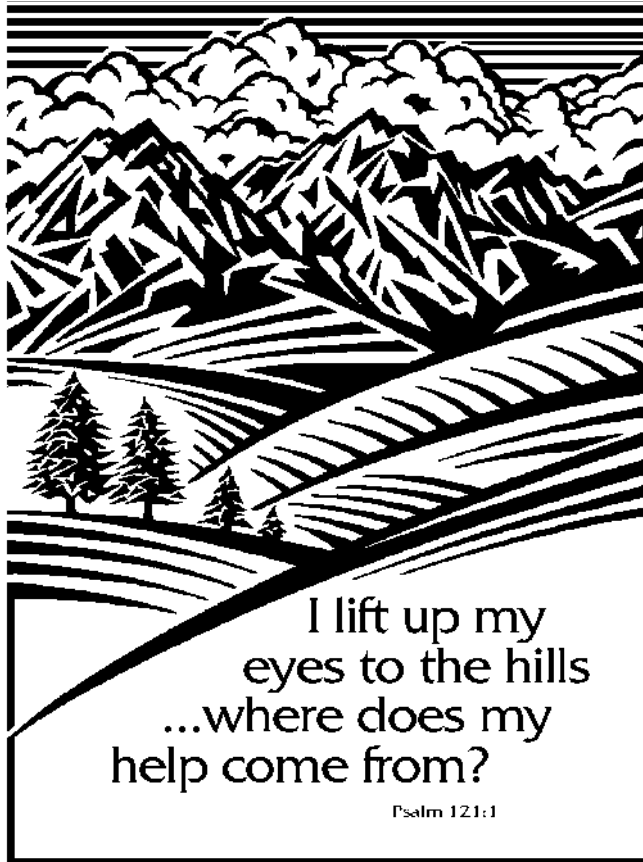


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 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: Andante Religioso by Thomé

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* INTROIT: O How He Loves You and Me # 2108 (*Sing the Faith*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: People of God, where do we put our trust?
Where do we find wholeness and meaning?

People: **We lift up our eyes to the hills.
Our help comes from the Creator of heaven and earth.**

Liturgist: We are sons and daughters of Abraham and Sarah.
We trust in God, who neither slumbers nor sleeps.

People: **We are followers of Jesus, who proclaimed God's realm.
We are born of the Spirit, born from above.**

Liturgist: Our lives are a gift from God, who loves us.
By the grace of God, we are born anew each day.

People: **God loved the world in the gift of Jesus Christ.
Through faith in Christ, we receive eternal life.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

O God, we confess that we have been far more ready to say we believe than to trust you to lead us to new ventures of faithfulness. We are afraid of the evil that surrounds us. We fear rejection, failure, and ridicule. We admire Jesus, but it is difficult to follow in footsteps that lead to a cross. In the midst of life as we know it here, how can we catch glimpses of eternity? Save us, we pray, from our timidity, and use our doubts as an entry to deeper faith. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

Our lives are in God's hands. We can only glimpse the mystery of the Source of love, "who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist." Yet, as we look up in trust, there comes to us an abiding assurance that we are not alone. Receive, with humility and joy, the rebirth God offers this day and for all eternity.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* HYMN: I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes # 234

FIRST READING

Psalm 121

Liturgist

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
- ² My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- ⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
- ⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
- ⁸ The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

SECOND READING

Genesis 12:1-3

Pastor

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**"You, Your Name, Your People"***Pastor*

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE*Follow Insert***STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The Second Helvetic Confession (5.112)

Liturgist: What is faith?

ALL: Christian faith is not an opinion or human conviction, but a most firm trust and a clear and steadfast assent of the mind, and then a most certain apprehension of the truth of God presented in the Scriptures and in the Apostles' Creed, and thus also of God himself, the greatest good, and especially of God's promise and of Christ who is the fulfilment of all promises.

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 faith that sustains us is not a commodity to be hoarded and protected. Rather, faith is an active, dynamic relationship which God calls us to share with one another, not just in the church, but with everyone. Our offerings make possible faithful ministries within the church and our outreach in the world.

OFFERTORY: Spirit of God by Atkinson

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

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

Thank you, God, for glimpses of eternity in the daily experiences of life. We are grateful for encounters that lift the horizons of our vision. We rejoice in the teaching and care you have provided to us. Bless now the gifts we return to you for the programs and outreach of the church. We want to share our faith with the world. We pray for trustful relationships among all your children. We rejoice together in the saving ministry of Jesus that inspires us to give our best. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: We rejoice that God has gathered us for worship.
Now we depart to go where God sends us.

People: **We are God's messengers wherever we go.**
We are called to be Christian in all our dealings.

Pastor: In our work and in our leisure, may we serve faithfully.
By God's grace, we are empowered so to do.

People: **Winds of the Spirit will daily refresh us.**
Faith finds new birth in us every day.

Pastor: God promises to be our helper whenever we call.
God's love surrounds us even when we do not ask for it.

People: **With joy, we will go where God sends us.**
With confidence, we will share our faith with others.

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: Tambourin by LeClair

Today's Worship Team

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

Devotion of the Week

Let us read **Psalm 121** and **Genesis 12:1-3**.

Question for your meditation:

How do these two passages intrigue, challenge and inspire you?

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 — March 5, 2023

- Included with your bulletin today (and each week until Easter) is a Lenten Devotional that encourages us to think about how we relate to and care for the earth as stewards of this planet and the environment that God created for us.
- The Deacons will meet today at noon.
- The next Session Meeting will be on Monday, March 13 at 7 PM, via Zoom.
- Everyone is invited to Clarence Presbyterian Church for their Evensong Service today at 4:00 PM. Please see the flyer on the Courtyard bulletin board for more information.
- Amherst Presbyterian Church is blessed to participate in the PC(USA)'s One Great Hour of Sharing offering that will be collected from February 22 through April 9. In this season of Lent, we follow Jesus' example, walking alongside the most vulnerable to partner in repairing harms inflicted upon them. We are the Church--Together, and we are there with those who need us. Flyers and special envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex.

Next week — **Sunday, March 12** — Worship Service at 10:30 AM

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