

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.



Blessed are
those who have not
seen and yet believe.”

John 20:29

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 7, 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: Voren Grieg

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** Lord, I Lift Your Name on High # 2088 (*Sing the Faith*) - sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Life has been revealed to us in this Easter season.
Gather once more to testify to life.

**People: We declare to each other what we have experienced.
In community we find the life God intends.**

Liturgist: Early believers were of one heart and soul.
We, too, are called to find common ground in Christ.

**People: How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity.**

Liturgist: Peace be with you as we celebrate resurrection.
Christ is with us to renew our faith.

**People: We are here to testify to God's grace.
We will share our story and ourselves.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

We have taken the name Christian, but few of us are known primarily by that name. We have experienced Easter radiance, but we seldom reflect the light of our risen Savior. We have heard the message of salvation, but it grows cold on our lips and is of little influence on our lives. Sometimes we delude ourselves that, because we are basically good people, there is no sin in us. We deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Sin is separation from you, and we have allowed great chasms and built high walls to keep you out of our lives. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

John wrote to the early church: If we walk in the light as Christ is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us. Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sin. When we are in unity with God through Christ, we extend forgiveness to our sisters and brothers, that all may come to faith and have life in Jesus' name. Amen.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** We Walk by Faith # 2196 (*Sing the Faith*)

FIRST READING

John 20:19-23

Liturgist

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

SECOND READING

John 20:24-31

Pastor

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and

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said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Here I Am, Lord"

Pastor

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Follow Insert

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From The Study Catechism, Questions 43 and 46

Liturgist: What do you affirm when you say that he was "crucified, dead, and buried"?

ALL: That when our Lord passed through the door of real human death, he showed us that there is no sorrow that he has not known, no grief he has not borne, and no price he was unwilling to pay in order to reconcile us to God.

Liturgist: What do you affirm when you say that 'on the third day he rose again from the dead'?

ALL: That our Lord could not be held by the power of death. Having died on the cross, he appeared to his followers, triumphant from the grave, in a new, exalted kind of life. In showing them his hands and his feet, the one who was crucified revealed himself to them as the Lord and Savior of the world.

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

Among the first Christians, there were no needy people because those who were rich brought their resources to be shared. They gave up their advantages so the needs of all could be met. Out of the rich legacy they have passed on to us, we bring our tithes and offerings in thanksgiving for all God's gifts.

OFFERTORY: Behold the Goodness of Our Lord Psalm 133

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

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

(in unison)

We offer to you our common stewardship, loving God. We want to be faithful in meeting one another's needs and in serving the world in Christ's name. The gifts we bring today will not mark an end to our giving. We sense that you are sending us, as Jesus was sent, to share light with the world. Thus, we dedicate our time and effort as a further offering. May life and faith be extended to many through us. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: You are sent into the world as a sign of God's love.
Go forth, carrying God's peace to all you meet.

**People: We will live in unity with our kindred;
We will listen and speak as God guides us.**

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Pastor: You are commissioned as a bearer of God's forgiveness.
Announce good news, sharing your testimony.

People: **It will be our joy to reconcile others to God.**
 We will extend to them the fellowship of light.

Pastor: The grace of Jesus Christ has been poured out on you.
God ordains a blessing for you: life forevermore.

People: **Our fears are unlocked; our faith is renewed.**
 We will invite our neighbors to share the joy.

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: O God Beyond All Praising Holst

Today's Worship Team

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

Devotion of the Week

Let us read ***John 20:19-31.***

Questions for your meditation:

Have you ever felt like the disciples at the beginning of John 20:19-31?
Did Jesus show up in your locked room? How so?

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — April 7, 2024

- Today's flowers are from Donna Hoffman, in loving memory of her son, Vincent Osika.
- The Deacons will meet in Fellowship Hall today at noon.
- The Session will meet tomorrow (4/8) at 7:00 PM, via Zoom.
- The next Staff Meeting will be on Thursday, April 11 at 4:00 PM, via Zoom.
- The communion signup sheet for the rest of 2024 has been posted on the bulletin board across from the nursery. If you forget to sign up while at church, feel free to call or email the church office during the week.
- Join us out on our lawn tomorrow (Monday, April 8) beginning at 2:00 PM for a Solar Eclipse Viewing Party! Bring a lawn chair and feel free to invite your family, friends, and neighbors so we can all watch this momentous event together! Free snacks and viewing glasses will be available (while supplies last). In case of inclement weather, we'll watch from inside of Fellowship Hall.
- Please note that the church office will be closing at noon tomorrow (4/8).
- Lois Potts shared how helpful, kind, and generous our plant supplier was for Easter. If you need any plants, especially unique/exotic ones, Sean Nordlund of Flowers & Dreams (5652 Main Street in Williamsville) is highly recommended. Plus supporting our local small businesses is a great way to keep our community strong.

Next week — **Sunday, April 14** — Worship Service at 10:30 AM

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

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(scheduling your visit is recommended)

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

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