

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.



(Catedral de la Purísima Concepción (Tepic, Nayarit) - portal vault mural of Revelation Chapter 5 Verse 6 by Nheyob, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons)

***22nd Sunday after Pentecost***

**October 29, 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:** Variations on Hyfrodol DuChamps

**OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Liturgist*

**\* INTROIT:** Bless His Holy Name # 2015 (*Sing the Faith*) - sing twice

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: Gather together to hear stories of faith and courage.  
Listen for the ways God has acted among us.

**People: Our ancestors in the faith listened for God's word.  
They dared to believe God's promises.**

Liturgist: Leaders like Moses and Paul saw evidence of God's work.  
They believed they were face-to-face with God's truth.

**People: They looked beyond the present moment.  
They lived for dreams not yet realized.**

Liturgist: Many felt God's love in knowing Jesus.  
They experienced a new relationship with neighbors.

**People: We have come seeking community centered in Christ.  
We want to feel God's presence as we worship.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

O God, we have missed your signs and wonders because we are so busy creating our own. Those around us who pretend to be your prophets offer little to which we aspire. Yet, we would pray with the psalmist, "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so we may rejoice and be glad all our days." Where is the meaning we have missing in all our striving? Does Jesus hold the key when he says, "Love God with all your being," and "Love your neighbor as yourself"? O God, we long to make sense out of life. Help us to follow your way. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*(in unison)*

It takes courage to question the way things are, especially when present arrangements are to our benefit. We who are privileged seldom notice those who suffer and are shamefully mistreated. Yet we cannot ignore them. We can only suppress knowledge of the evil around us for a little while. God is even now nudging us gently, caring tenderly for us amid our confusion and inner turmoil. The favor of God is upon us, entrusting us with the gospel for our own lives and for the world. Receive forgiveness and blessing as good news.

## PASSING OF PEACE

*Pastor*

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

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

\* HYMN: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God # 275 (purple)

## FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 31:1-8

*Liturgist*

<sup>1</sup> When Moses had finished speaking all these words to all Israel, <sup>2</sup> he said to them: "I am now one hundred twenty years old. I am no longer able to get about, and the Lord has told me, 'You shall not cross over this Jordan.' <sup>3</sup> The Lord your God himself will cross over before you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you shall dispossess them. Joshua also will cross over before you, as the Lord promised. <sup>4</sup> The Lord will do to them as he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, and to their land, when he destroyed them. <sup>5</sup> The Lord will give them over to you and you shall deal with them in full accord with the command that I have given to you. <sup>6</sup> Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you."

<sup>7</sup> Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel: "Be strong and bold, for you are the one who will go with this people into the land that the Lord has sworn to their ancestors to give them; and you will put them in possession of it. <sup>8</sup> It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; <sup>2</sup> and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" <sup>3</sup> And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>4</sup> And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. <sup>5</sup> Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. <sup>8</sup> When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. <sup>9</sup> They sing a new song:

"You are worthy to take the scroll  
and to open its seals,  
for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God  
saints from every tribe and language and people and nation;  
<sup>10</sup> you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God,  
and they will reign on earth."

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> singing with full voice,

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered  
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might  
and honor and glory and blessing!"

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

"To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honor and glory and might  
forever and ever!"

<sup>14</sup> And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**“Hope Revealed”**

*Pastor*

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

\* **HYMN:** Come Sing, O Church, in Joy! # 305 (purple)

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*(in unison)*

From The Confession of 1967 (9.11)

Jesus Christ is the judge of all men. His judgment discloses the ultimate seriousness of life and gives promise of God’s final victory over the power of sin and death. To receive life from the risen Lord is to have life eternal; to refuse life from him is to choose the death which is separation from God. All who put their trust in Christ face divine judgment without fear, for the judge is their redeemer.

**SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Pastor*

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (using debts/debtors)

*(in unison)*

**OFFERTORY INVITATION**

*Liturgist*

We who have been entrusted with the message of the gospel have the means to make it known to the world. Our tithes and offerings are dedicated to that purpose. As we present them, we also submit ourselves to God’s purposes and direction.

**OFFERTORY:** Whispering Hope Winner

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

**\* OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*(in unison)*

As we give ourselves and our offerings, we pray, O God, that they may reveal your love in such a way that many will respond. Awaken in us a love for you and for one another that is contagious. Remove from us all apathy, pretension, and greed that we may grow in holiness and compassion, living joyously in communion with you. Amen.

**\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, our coming together is not in vain.  
God is doing a new thing among us and beyond us.

**People: We have sensed a vision of God's plan for us.  
God's signs and wonders await our discovery.**

Pastor: God has compassion on all who seek to serve.  
Steadfast love is with all who continue in faithfulness.

**People: God's glorious power is manifested in humility.  
Surely God's favor rests upon us here.**

Pastor: Now we go out with courage, entrusted with the gospel.  
We carry good news of God's love to our neighbors.

**People: We will be gentle with others as God is gentle with us.  
We offer tender care in the spirit of Jesus.**

**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: Wonderful Words of Life Bliss**

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:	The People and Reverend Dr. Ed Kuffel
Music Director:	Donna Lorenzo
Liturgist:	Tom Potts

## **APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — October 29, 2023**

- We wish to extend a warm welcome to Reverend Dr. Ed Kuffel, who will be leading our worship services while Pastor Amir is on leave.
- Today's flowers are from Sandy Sugg, "in memory of my Dad, Edward Riggs; Happy Heavenly Birthday Dad."
- The next Deacons' Meeting will be on Sunday, November 5 at noon.
- If you've been saving your Dash's receipts at home, please be sure to bring them in to church very soon. We're close to having a bundle to submit, but some of the receipts in that bundle will be unusable/past date in just a few weeks.
- APC's Fall Basket Raffle will be on Saturday, November 11, 2 - 3:30 PM. Ways you can help: invite your family, friends and neighbors; make baskets; bring in gift cards; make a dessert; serve refreshments, sell tickets, or call numbers at the raffle; setup on 11/10 or cleanup on 11/11. Sign-up online using the link in the newsletter or on the Fellowship bulletin board (near the nursery).
- Another "basket" project that's underway is the 2023 Turkey Basket Project! APC is joining with North Presby. and several other organizations to collect and distribute Thanksgiving baskets to local families. This year we are contributing desserts, yum! Please have all brownie mixes and cake mixes with cans/pouches of frosting placed in the big basket up front by Sunday, November 12.

Next week — ***Sunday, November 5***

(No Bible Study on 11/5)

10:30 AM - Worship service

12:00 PM - Deacons' Meeting

### **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

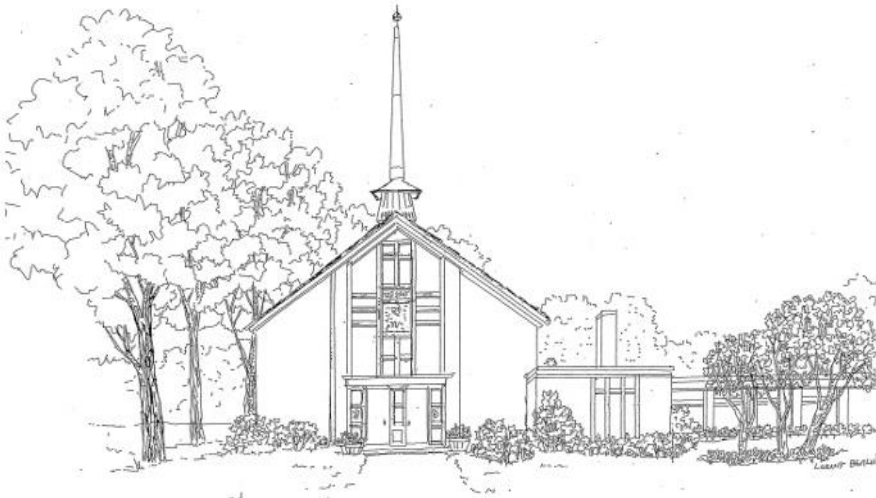
Our friends and family in care facilities and at home, including:

Tom & May Chou, Doreen Connolly, Joan Hambleton,  
John Kelley Jr., Betty Knowl, Lois McMillan, Gail Trankle

# **Amherst Presbyterian Church**

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Office Phone:** 716-633-4656 / **Email:** AmherstPC@verizon.net

**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