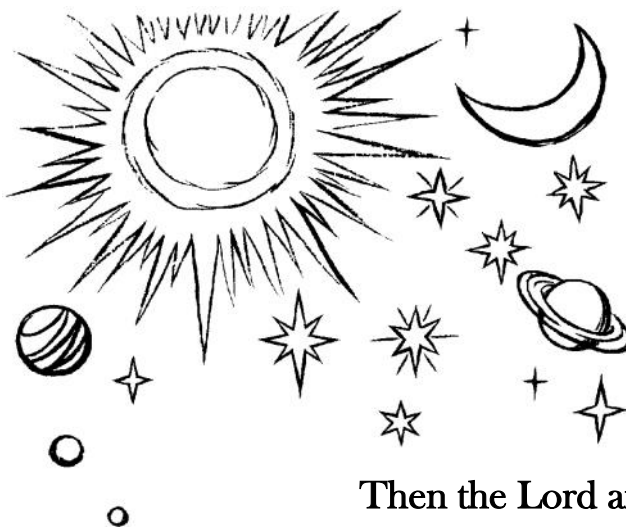


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

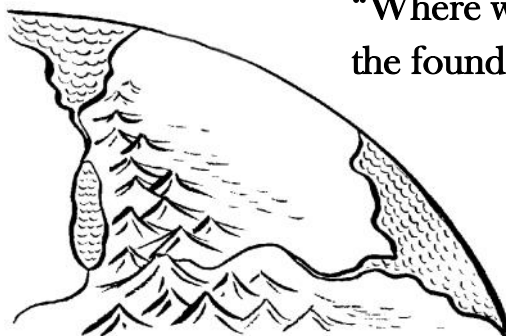
You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



Then the Lord answered Job...

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?”

Job 38:1,4



***5th Sunday after Pentecost***

**June 23, 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: Where'er You Walk     Handel

**OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Liturgist*

\* INTROIT: Shout to the Lord # 2074 (*Sing the Faith*) - sing twice

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: Gather in awe before God, who laid the foundations of the earth.  
Open your hearts to the steadfast love God offers.

**People:                    The deeds of God are beyond our knowing.  
                                 Yet we catch glimpses of God's mercy and care.**

Liturgist: God does not forsake us when we are dismayed and afraid.  
Our Creator is with us in all times and places.

**People:                    God is a stronghold for the oppressed and troubled.  
                                 The needy and the poor are not forgotten.**

Liturgist: God is ready to listen to us in these moments together.  
See, now is the acceptable time, the day of salvation.

**People:                    Surely God will meet us here in our faith community!  
                                 How good it is when we sense our unity in Christ!**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

Help us, God, for we do not have the wisdom to help ourselves. When the good we have known crumbles beneath our feet and we are mired down in hopelessness and self-pity, we need you. When we cannot hide from the evil that is all around us because some of it is also in us, we cry out for your saving mercy. We confess that it is easier to see the problems than the promise. We have been more ready to complain than to accept your help. O God, we open our hearts to you. We want to be healed. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*(in unison)*

God has listened to us. In spite of all we have done or not done, God accepts us. This is a day of salvation, when brokenness is mended, problems are seen in a new light, and fierce winds are stilled. God does not forget the cry of the afflicted. God's affection for us is limited only by our failure to respond. Accept the gift of God's love, for it is everything we need.

## **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**

Mark 4:35-41

*Liturgist*

<sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup> A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup> But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup> He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup> And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

## **SECOND READING**

Job 38:1-11

*Pastor*

- 1 Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:
- 2 "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
- 3 Gird up your loins like a man,  
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.
- 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?  
Tell me, if you have understanding.

*(continued on next page)*

5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know!  
Or who stretched the line upon it?  
6 On what were its bases sunk,  
or who laid its cornerstone  
7 when the morning stars sang together  
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?  
8 “Or who shut in the sea with doors  
when it burst out from the womb?—  
9 when I made the clouds its garment,  
and thick darkness its swaddling band,  
10 and prescribed bounds for it,  
and set bars and doors,  
11 and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,  
and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**“Where were you?”**

*Pastor*

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

\* **HYMN:** Why Should I Feel Discouraged? (His Eye Is on the Sparrow) # 661 (purple)

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*(in unison)*

A Brief Statement of Faith (verses 27-51)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

*(continued on next page)*

In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Pastor*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (using debts/debtors)

*(in unison)*

## **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

*Liturgist*

God has lifted us up from the gates of death. We will praise God with all we have to give. Christ walks with us through difficult days and sleepless nights. We give thanks for the church that proclaims this good news. The Holy Spirit meets us in our weakness with a love that will not let us go. All this we want to share with the world. These moments of giving represent the commitment of our lives to God.

**OFFERTORY:** God Will Take Care of You Martin

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

## \* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*(in unison)*

Thank you, God, for meeting us in our need. We give that others in even greater need might not be forgotten. We are grateful for the trust you place in us. We give that others might respond to the good news of your love. We are hearing the word Jesus spoke in the midst of a storm: "Peace! Be still!" With fresh calm and confidence, we give ourselves that others might live. Thank you, God, for your steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

## \* **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: As servants of God, we commend ourselves in every way.  
God has given us the ministry in which we serve.

*(continued on next page)*



## APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — June 23, 2024

- Tonight at 6:00 PM is the sailboat ride on the Spirit of Buffalo. Please let Pastor Amir know if you're planning to go. If no responses are received by this afternoon, the outing will be cancelled.
- If you would like a copy of the 2024-25 Presbyterian Planning calendar, please request it through the church office (by phone or email) no later than Friday, July 19. These 19-month calendars are full of great PC (USA) information, such as maps, liturgical colors/days, and the lectionary. They are \$11.50 each.
- Save the date... on Friday, August 2 we'll have our Summer Serenade! Stay tuned for more details.
- Although our annual Basket Raffle isn't until November, summer is a great time to start thinking about basket ideas and gathering items. Tips and ideas are on the bulletin board across from the nursery (and in the newsletter).

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

### **Devotion of the Week**

Let us read **Mark 4:35–41** and **Job 38:1-11**.

#### **Questions for your meditation:**

What thoughts, feelings, ideas or images arise as you read this passage?

When have you cried out to God in your suffering? In what ways did God show up?

When have you been hesitant to show up for someone who was suffering?

What kept you from showing up? What would help you show up?

# 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