

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.



Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

John 21:15

3rd Sunday of Easter

May 1, 2022 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: Arioso by Bach

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** Open Our Eyes # 2086 (*Sing the Faith*) - Sing through twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Sing praises to God, O you saints of God.
Give thanks to God's holy name.

People: **Praise God for the joyous gift of a new day.**
 Thank God for healing and ever-present help.

Liturgist: Extol the one who lifts us up from defeat.
Praise the one who upholds us when we are discouraged.

People: **God sees and hears our weeping.**
 God lifts our souls from the pit of despair.

Liturgist: Give thanks to God who turns mourning into dancing.
Praise God who hears our cries and answers our prayers.

People: **We have cried to you in our need, O God.**
 We believe you are working to make us whole.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Loving God, we admit to attitudes that exclude rather than embrace. We prefer to associate with others who think and act as we do. We turn away from those who are different from us. We identify some as enemies to be avoided or even destroyed. Forgive us, God, for seeking to limit your family. Awaken us to the limits of our understanding and the narrowness of our dealings. Show us the better ways you intend and make us bold to respond, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

Let the scales fall from your eyes. God has offered you new sight. Unplug your ears. God is claiming you as a beloved servant. Warm to the community that surrounds you. God has given you sisters and brothers to love. Reach out to feed and care and follow where Christ leads. You are forgiven and claimed and sent.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** Lift High the Cross # 371

FIRST READING

John 21:1-8

Liturgist

¹ After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

SECOND READING

John 21:9-19

Pastor

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."

¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a

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hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord.

¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Refocusing the Apostles”

Pastor

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

* **HYMN:** Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound # 280

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Follow Insert

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(in unison)

We are not alone. We live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit. We trust in God. We

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are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope, in life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

Who will carry the name of Christ into the marketplace? Who will try new ways of faithfulness? Our offerings involve all who give. They empower those who serve. They express our praise and thanksgiving while witnessing to the reign of love in our midst.

OFFERTORY: It Is Well With My Soul by Bliss

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

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

We bring our offerings to feed your lambs and tend your sheep, gracious God. May these gifts extend love in the form of food, pure water, shelter, and acceptance. Let them provide outreach to the world and opportunities for growth within this congregation. Help us focus on what is important, that we may work together to make a difference in the world. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Rise and go where God directs.
Your caring may be the answer to someone's prayer.

People: **We will extol our God in word and deed.**
We will reach out to our neighbors with love.

Pastor: Be alert to the needs of people you meet.
You may be God's chosen instrument of healing.

People: **We will praise God's faithfulness day by day.**
We will listen with compassion to those who suffer.

Pastor: Blessed are those who believe without seeing.
Blessed are those who trust without proof.

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People: **We will follow where Christ leads us.**
 Blessing, honor, glory, and power be to our God.
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: Jerusalem by Parry

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:	The People and Reverend David Smith
Music Director:	Donna Lorenzo
Liturgist:	Tom Potts

Devotion of the Week

Let us re-read **John 21:1-19**.

Question for your meditation:

What do we need to remember to help us refocus ourselves in the way
we follow Jesus in our daily lives?

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Our friends and family in care facilities and at home, including:
Doreen Connolly, Joan Hambleton, John Kelley Jr.,
Betty Knowl, Lois McMillan, Gail Trankle

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — May 1, 2022

- Our current safety guidelines can be found on the back of your bulletin.
- We are delighted to welcome as our guest preacher this morning, Reverend David Smith, Pastor Emeritus of Amherst Presbyterian Church.
- Today's flowers are in memory of our dearly departed friend, Mel Palmer. Today would have been her 94th birthday.
- During fellowship time after church today, Donna invites everyone of any and all ages and musical abilities to share with her their favorite hymn, special worship song and any other music they enjoy and like singing. She will be there and very happy to hear your thoughts!
- The Deacons will meet at church today at noon.
- We have planned a Spring Church Grounds Clean-up on Saturday May 7th. We will start at 9:30 and will finish around noon. Your help would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to bring tools, please do so. Thank you in advance, The Trustees.
- On Thursday May 5th, Amherst Presbyterian Church will have a "Shop for a Cause" event at the Carousel Shop (6094 Main St, Wmsvl.) On the 5th, from 3pm until 7pm, APC will receive 15% of the value of all purchases made. Vintage goods, locally made handicrafts and more. Flyers are on the table in the Narthex and on the Courtyard and Fellowship/Community bulletin boards.
- Please pick up your quarterly giving statement from the table in the Narthex (arranged alphabetically). Those not taken today will be mailed out this week.
- Due to the many requests we received, at the last session meeting it was decided that we will accept gifts for Pastor Amir and his family to help with their relocation. If you would like to contribute to a gift for the Pastor's family, it may be placed in the collection plate (marked as 'Pastor's Family Gift') or mailed to the church office. We would like to present it to him when he returns from Egypt (just after Memorial Day).
- May is CWS Blankets month! Every \$10 donated helps blanket the world with love. Special envelopes are on the table in the Narthex, along with informational flyers.

Next week — **Sunday, May 8** — Worship Service at **10:30 AM**

Safety guidelines for in-person worship:

- ◇ Masks are optional; use of them is at the discretion of each individual. The masks in the Narthex are available to anyone who needs one.
- ◇ Hand sanitizer can be found at the entrance of the church and at various locations throughout the building.
- ◇ If you haven't done so already, please sign the attendance sheet in the Narthex.



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