

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 answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Luke 4:8

1st Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025 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: Take Time to be Holy Longstaff

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* **INTROIT:** He Has Made Me Glad # 2270 (*Sing the Faith*) - Sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Gather to remember and share stories of faith;
rejoice in the goodness of the loving God.

People: **Before our stories began, there was God;
through all our days, God walks with us.**

Liturgist: Worship the one who gives and sustains life;
sing praises to the one who is our refuge.

People: **There is no place we can go where God is not;
amid life's terrors, God's promises hold true.**

Liturgist: Delight in God, whose protection we enjoy;
dance with the God who frees us for new possibilities.

People: **We call out to God, expecting to be heard;
we listen, knowing there is truth to be received.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Sovereign God, we confess our desire to reshape your world to our own advantage. We are more concerned with what we eat than with who will get to eat today. Our own security is more important to us than the health and safety of all your children. The first fruits of our labor grace the altars of our own desires instead of honoring you. We prefer that you keep your distance from us unless we need you. We like promises without commands, gifts without responsibilities. O God, we confess that our ways don't work. Turn us around for true worship and service, as forgiven and forgiving people. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

All who call on God will know salvation. Those who cling to God will be delivered. How great is the joy of people who are loved, forgiven, and set free to become a new creation, through Christ Jesus. God's gifts are for you. Receive them in trust, knowing that God's presence and protection are yours to enjoy every day.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** Be Thou My Vision # 450 (purple)

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Liturgist

(please turn to page 180 of the Old Testament in your pew Bible)

SECOND READING

Luke 4:1-13

Pastor

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,

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to protect you,'
¹¹and
'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' ”
¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”
¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “**Loyalties and Motivations**” *Pastor*

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

* **HYMN:** Just a Closer Walk with Thee # 835 (purple)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

From the Theological Declaration of Barmen

Liturgist: “Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole-body [is] joined and knit together” (Ephesians 4:15-16).

ALL: The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance. We reject the false doctrine, as though the church were permitted to abandon the form of its message and order to its own pleasure or to changes in prevailing ideological and political convictions.

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

All we have is from God. Our best is to be returned to God, freely given to minister in Christ's name. Out of gratitude for a land flowing with milk and honey, we bring our first fruits to be blessed in the outreach of the church.

OFFERTORY: Jesus, Jesus Gaither

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

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

(in unison)

From the abundance entrusted to us, we offer up the best we can give. Guide our use of this precious trust, that it may be spent in ways you choose, in places where you would send us, for the sake of people among whom you wish to dwell. May we bear witness to your abiding love, not only with money but with dedicated lives. Allow us to be instruments of assurance and compassion in our homes and wherever our journeys lead. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: Depart to the places of your inheritance;
God will dwell with you there and bless you.

**People: All that we have is a gift from God;
everywhere we go, we are with our Creator.**

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Pastor: Walk in the ways of God, rejoicing in God's goodness;
the Most High will honor your calls and protect you.

**People: We call on God's name as we scatter once more;
our prayers will continue in every day and place.**

Pastor: Know that Christ Jesus was raised from death for you.
Continue in faith, sharing the good news.

**People: We rejoice in our salvation and claim our healing.
We offer renewal and hope to the world.**

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: Medley of hymns Arr.

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 ***Deuteronomy 26:1-11*** and ***Luke 4:1-13***.

Questions for your meditation:

Can profit, power, and prestige be good if God's heart is at the center of our own?

Where are you sensing temptation away from God in your wilderness?

What forces, represented here by the devil, do you see pulling our communal motives and loyalties away from God's heart?

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — March 9, 2025

- The Session will meet on Monday, March 10 at 7:00 PM, via Zoom.
- Rachael Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 11 at noon, in Fellowship Hall.
- Easter plants are available for purchase until the end of March. Please see your bulletin insert or Lois Potts for full details.
- The next Bible Study will be on Sunday, March 16, at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.
- Mark your calendar for the next Finger Foods Luncheon, which will be on Sunday, March 16. This delicious time of fellowship is sponsored by our Deacons and is a fun way to get to know your church family better.
- Thank you to everyone who brings in their Dash's receipts. When we turn them in for reimbursement through their Tapesaver program, the funds we receive are used for the Pastoral Discretionary Fund ("PDF"), which provides assistance individuals and families in need. If you don't shop at Dash's, you can still contribute toward the PDF directly by placing money or small-value gift cards in the offering plate labeled "PDF."
- We need your input regarding the Rummage Sale. Please take the brief survey in our weekly newsletter or complete a printed copy from the table in the narthex.
- Through the PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing, you can help provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Special giving envelopes will be available until Easter.

Next week — ***Sunday, March 16***

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service

12:00 PM - Finger Foods Luncheon

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Our friends and family in care facilities and at home, including:
May Chou, Andy Chou, Joan Hambleton, Betty Knowl, Lois McMillan, Gail Trankle

Amherst Presbyterian Church

151 S. Youngs Road

Williamsville, NY 14221-7023



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: www.amherstpreshurch.com

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