

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.



**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 24, 2021 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:** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (arr.)

**OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Liturgist*

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: God is gathering us from many different places.  
No one is worthy, but all are invited.

**People: God lifts us up when we stumble and leads us back.  
God cares for us amid our pain and losses.**

Liturgist: We are delivered from our fears and saved from trouble.  
Happy are those who take refuge in a loving God.

**People: Our lips pour forth laughter and joyous singing.  
We join in shouts of praise to God Most High.**

Liturgist: Taste and see how good God is.  
Trust in the One who awakens joy in place of tears.

**People: We will bless our God in all times and places.  
Let us exalt God's name together!**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

We confess, O God, that our lives have made of you a distant deity. We listen to what others say about you, but we have seldom glimpsed for ourselves who you are. We are dominated by our doubts instead of by our practice of prayer. We are not ready to repent in dust and ashes, but we do ask for mercy as we face up to sins we have not recognized and wrongdoing we have tried to ignore. Instill in us a new appreciation of righteousness, and help us to grow in the way you would have us go. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*(in unison)*

Our God, who has reached out to us in love, welcomes even our timid answers. God is most generous in blessing us and lifting us beyond our losses and our fears. In Christ, we are linked with God's saving grace for all time and eternity. Let us praise God, recognizing that faith has power to heal.

## PASSING OF PEACE

*Pastor*

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

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

\* **HYMN:** Grace Alone # 2162 (*Sing the Faith*)

## FIRST READING

Revelation 21:1-7

*Liturgist*

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

<sup>7</sup> Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

**SECOND READING**

Isaiah 49:13-18

*Pastor*

- <sup>13</sup> Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
For the Lord has comforted his people,  
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.
- <sup>14</sup> But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me,  
my Lord has forgotten me."
- <sup>15</sup> Can a woman forget her nursing child,  
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?  
Even these may forget,  
yet I will not forget you.
- <sup>16</sup> See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;  
your walls are continually before me.
- <sup>17</sup> Your builders outdo your destroyers,  
and those who laid you waste go away from you.
- <sup>18</sup> Lift up your eyes all around and see;  
they all gather, they come to you.  
As I live, says the Lord,  
you shall put all of them on like an ornament,  
and like a bride you shall bind them on.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**THE SERMON****"Never Forgotten!"***Pastor*

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

\* **HYMN:** What a Friend We Have in Jesus # 403 (English only, verses 1-3)

**STATEMENT OF FAITH** The Confession of 1967 (9.21, 9.23) *(in unison)*

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of mankind. His cross and resurrection become a personal crisis and present hope for men

*(continued on next page)*

when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to men, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life does not release a man from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, fear. He still has to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as he matures in love and faithfulness in his life with Christ, he lives in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

## **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.

\* **HYMN:**       The Longer I Serve Him       *(insert)*

## **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

*Liturgist*

Our offerings are to magnify God's name and to express our deep sense of thanksgiving. They are also an expression of empathy and concern for sisters and brothers who struggle to find life. Giving reorients our lives to what is of lasting value and importance. Let us give as we are able—with joy!

**OFFERTORY SOLO:**       In My Heart There Rings a Melody (arr.)

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

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*(in unison)*

Hear our prayer for all who may be helped by what we give. We offer more than money; we offer ourselves. May the sympathy and comfort we share with people in need serve to draw them closer to you. Keep us strong, that this church

*(continued on next page)*

may give radiant witness to truth, constructive opposition to evil, and merciful redemption to those caught up in the wickedness of our times. Amen.

**\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Take heart; your faith is making you well.  
You will know wholeness and peace beyond your suffering.

**People: We have witnessed miracles of transformation.  
Christ grants insight and deep inner healing.**

Pastor: You are chosen as disciples and apostles of good news.  
You have gathered to learn; now go out to witness.

**People: It is hard to share good news that people resist.  
We fear we do not know enough to defend our views.**

Pastor: God needs no defense from us but welcomes our thanks.  
We can tell others about our own journey with God.

**People: Our gladness and our humility are genuine.  
We pray that God will work in and through us.**

**ALL: Amen.**

**POSTLUDE:** Hyfrydol *Harold Rutz*

Today's Worship Team

Ministers: The People and Reverend Dr. Ed Kuffel  
Music Director: Nancy Lorenzo-Deleys  
Liturgist: Tom Potts  
Usher: Roberta Jones

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

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

## APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — October 24, 2021

- Our current safety guidelines can be found on the back of your bulletin.
- We are pleased to welcome back this morning, our guest preacher, Dr. Ed Kuffel.
- Pastor Amir is on vacation until Thursday, October 28. Our Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Dave Smith, is available for Pastoral Care during this time.
- All are welcome to attend the wedding of Sarah and Mike at Amherst Presbyterian Church, next Sunday (10/31), at 2:00 PM.
- The Deacons will hold their next meeting on Sunday, November 7 at noon.

Next week — ***Sunday, October 31***

**10:30 AM** — Worship Service

**2:00 PM** — Wedding of Sarah & Mike

### ***Devotion of the Week***

Please re-read **Revelation 21:1-7** and **Isaiah 49:13-18**.

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

What kind of life situations tempt you to think that God has forgotten you? How do this week's Scriptures remind you that you will never be forgotten? What does Revelation 21:1-7 say about your ultimate future, and how does that give you hope over the chaos we often see in the world?

Please observe the following safety guidelines for in-person worship:

- ◇ The congregation is asked to please follow CDC guidelines for masks, based on their vaccination status and overall health.
- ◇ 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