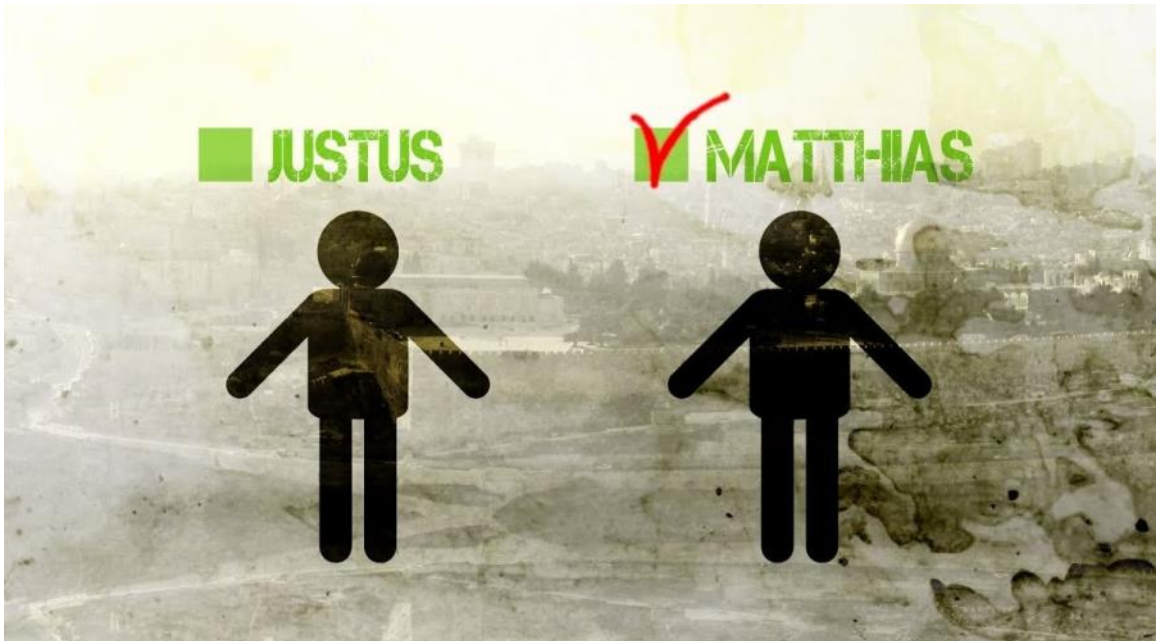


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



7th Sunday of Easter

May 12, 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: Be Still My Soul Sibelius

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

APC SINGERS: M-O-T-H-E-R Morse

*** INTROIT:** We Will Walk With God # 742 (purple) - sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: We are together today because Christ has claimed us.
We are called to be the body of Christ in today's world.

**People: Who are we to make such a claim?
Who would see Jesus Christ when they look at us?**

Liturgist: It is not our claim that brings us together.
The church is not our private club.

**People: We are not here just for ourselves, for our own needs.
We are drawn together by a larger purpose.**

Liturgist: We have been called by Christ for a mission.
The gathered community is sent out into the world.

**People: We are here to be equipped for ministry.
We have been chosen as apostles of good news.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pour out our Prayer of Confession. We have been called together into the church to live the resurrection faith, to embody Easter and touch lives as Jesus did. We have not done this well. Our vision has been narrow and limited. Our testimony has been timid and self-protective. We listen to the wrong advisors and complain when things do not go our way.

(continued on next page)

Forgive our limited commitment and low expectations that deny the Body of Christ as the strong force for good that we are meant to be. Help us rediscover the delight and joy of full commitment. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

God hears our prayers and forgives. No longer are we like chaff that the wind drives away. We are not numbered among the wicked who have no place in the congregation of the righteous. As forgiven and forgiving sinners, let us embrace our chosenness and live up to our calling.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! # 263 (purple)

FIRST READING

Psalm 108

Liturgist

(please turn to page 560 of the Old Testament in your pew Bible)

SECOND READING

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Pastor

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶ "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen

(continued on next page)

²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “**Justus or Matthias?**” *Pastor*

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

* **HYMN:** Lead On, O King Eternal! # 269 (purple)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

A Brief Statement of Faith (lines 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. 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

All that we possess is a part of God's gift to the world. God's gift in Jesus Christ reminds us that what is entrusted to us is meant to be shared. May the joy we discover in God's word be passed on through our generous giving.

OFFERTORY: I Heard My Mother Say / Just a Closer Walk
Mother Daughter Quartet:
*Nancy Lorenzo-Deleys, Donna Lorenzo,
Joanne Lorenzo, Victoria Bonning*

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

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

Here, O God, is some of the abundance you have allowed us to manage for you while we are on this earth. May it be enough to draw us closer to you and to all whom we seek to help. May our hearts follow our treasure into growing devotion to your truth and expanded commitment to the unity in love that Jesus sought for all your children. Bless this offering, and increase our joy in giving. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: You have been chosen as disciples and apostles.
Your task is to learn and proclaim God's Word.

**People: We are learning from the life of Jesus.
We are seeking to live in ways Jesus taught.**

Pastor: You do not belong to the world but to God.
You are in the world as bearers of God's truth.

**People: We find delight in the discovery of God's law.
May it be a part of us, day and night.**

Pastor: God's love is our guardian and protection.
God gives us eternal life in Christ Jesus.

**People: God, who knows our hearts, accepts us.
The love of God follows us wherever we go.**

ALL: Amen.

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — May 12, 2024

- Today's flowers are in honor and memory of our mothers - Happy Mother's Day!
- Throughout the month of May, our Deacons are collecting donations on behalf of Church World Service (CWS) to be used toward their Blanket Program, which provides fleece and wool blankets to those in need. Special giving envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex.
- The next Session Meeting will be on Monday, May 13 at 7:00 PM, via Zoom.
- Rachael Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 14 at noon in Fellowship Hall. They're currently studying the Ten Commandments. Bring a bagged lunch and beverage; dessert will be provided by this month's hostess.
- Any high school or college students who would like to earn community service hours by volunteering at our church should contact the church office.
- This summer we'd like to have another adventure together on the Spirit of Buffalo. Sail boat tours are available until the end of September. Please contact the church office to let us know which months/weeks are best for you, or you can mark the sheet on the bulletin board across from the Nursery to indicate your preferences.
- Registration is now open for Camp Duffield's summer camps. Details are available on the Courtyard bulletin board, our newsletter and their website (campduffield.net).
- Special envelopes and flyers are available in the Narthex until May 19th for the PCUSA's Pentecost Special Offering. Your gifts nurture the faith of those who are the church to come by supporting programs for children, youth, and young adults.

Next week — **Sunday, May 19** — Pentecost

9:30 AM - Bible Study

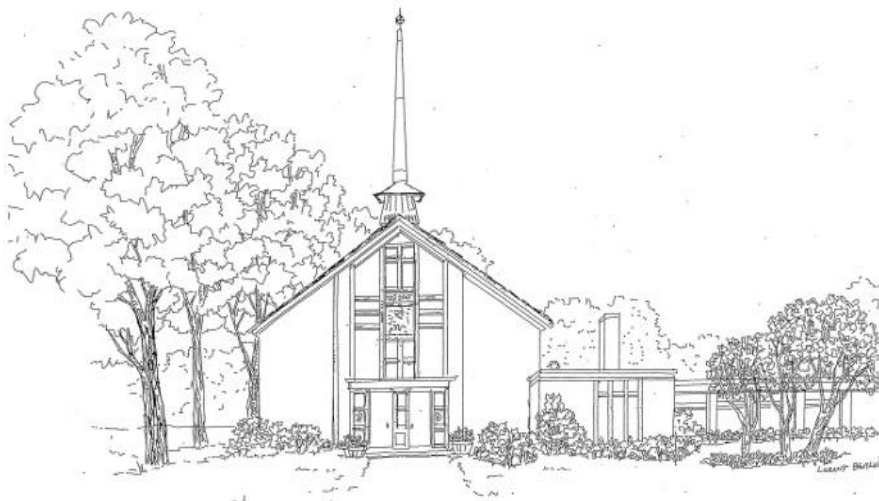
10:30 AM - Worship Service



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: <https://amherstpreshurch.com>

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