

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.



## ***Transfiguration of the Lord***

**February 19, 2023 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    by Sibelius

**OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Liturgist*

**\* INTROIT:**    Holy Ground    # 2272 (*Sing the Faith*) - Sing Twice

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist:        The coming of a new day calls us to anticipate God's dawn.  
                      The day of God's dawning is like a morning star rising.

**People:**                **The light of God is like a devouring fire.**  
                              **God's brightness is too intense for our gaze.**

Liturgist:        Come up to the mountain of God's presence.  
                      Wait for God to reveal divine intentions for us.

**People:**                **We are eyewitnesses to God's majesty.**  
                              **We have sensed God's presence in stories of Jesus.**

Liturgist:        Look up, and do not be afraid.  
                      Jesus, whom you seek, is transfigured before you.

**People:**                **We will serve our God with fear and trembling.**  
                              **Happy are those whose refuge is in God.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

God of dazzling splendor, we confess that we have lived in a cloud, hiding from your glory and pretending not to notice the wonders of your majesty. The mystery of life eludes us because we take for granted what seems commonplace and refuse to deal with matters beyond our understanding. We have tried to put our religion in a compartment separate from the rest of life. We have not thought to serve you in everyday encounters. Shake our complacency, we pray, and awaken us to new life in all its fullness. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*(in unison)*

Happy are all who take refuge in God. We are accepted as God's own children. To us, the Holy Spirit comes as a gift, interpreting to us the truth of the Scriptures. Do not be afraid of the vision God sets before us. A new day is dawning among us as we become aware that God is with us.

## PASSING OF PEACE

*Pastor*

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

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

\* HYMN: Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory # 73

## FIRST READING

Psalm 99

*Liturgist*

*(Please turn to page 552 in your pew Bibles)*

## SECOND READING

Matthew 17:1-9

*Pastor*

<sup>1</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup> And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. <sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

**SERMON****“Transfiguration Sunday”***Pastor***MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION** ~ *Please observe this time of silence.***INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE***Follow Insert***STATEMENT OF FAITH***(in unison)*

from The Belhar Confession

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted; that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another; that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; that we share one faith, have one calling, are of one soul and one mind. Amen.

**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*

As we encounter the mystery of God's revelation, we approach the season of Lent with its opportunities for reflection and waiting on God for forty days and forty nights. Our church seeks to strengthen its ministry, not only among those already committed to the journey with Christ, but to our neighbors and friends. Our giving is a symbol of our willingness to invest our time and best efforts to bring God's vision for humanity to life.

**OFFERTORY:**           The Love of God    by Lehman

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

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

God of clouds and devouring fire, we are amazed by the experiences of Moses and the disciples of Jesus. They point us beyond our everyday attempts to be faithful to you. Enrich our lives in the season we are entering, that we may see the lamp of your love shining amid the shadows. Let your new day dawn among us as we invest ourselves in your purposes for humanity. May we sense the morning star rising in our hearts, giving hope to a world reclaiming the values of your reign among us. Amen.

## **\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor:           We have been to the mountaintop with Moses.  
                    We know that God's established order brings life.

**People:**               **God is our refuge and our inspiration.**  
                              **Prayer empowers our thinking and our doing.**

Pastor:           We have caught the vision of the disciples.  
                    We will know life abundant as followers of Jesus.

**People:**               **Christ expands our horizons day by day.**  
                              **We are amazed at the possibilities Christ offers.**

Pastor:           Days of waiting and watching bring revelation.  
                    Times of loving service bring fulfillment and joy.

*(continued on next page)*

**People:**                    **The Spirit sends us into the world to serve.**  
                                 **We share the message: We are beloved by 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:**            Allegretto     by Corelli

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:	The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous
Music Director:	Donna Lorenzo
Liturgist:	Leslie Palermo

### **Devotion of the Week**

Let us read ***Psalm 99*** and ***Matthew 17:1-9.***

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

How might you lean into God's future as you discern the challenges of our community?

Have you ever experienced conflict because a ministry of your church has upset folk in the church or in your neighborhood? How did you deal with it?

## **APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — February 19, 2023**

- Today's flowers are in celebration of the birthdays of Martha Tawadrous (2/18) and Pastor Amir (2/19).
- Cheryl and Dave Huffaker would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, and calls as they face this challenging time. It means a lot to know how much you care.
- All Elders and Deacons are asked to please stay after worship today for the Joint Mission Meeting. This meeting is also open to any Staff who would like to attend.
- Everyone is invited to our **Ash Wednesday** service on **February 22 at 7:00 PM**. Please join us as we enter into the season of Lent, alongside of our sister churches, Clarence and North Presbyterian. During this evening service we will also welcome guest cello soloist, David Meyer, a well-known musician and teacher in Western New York.
- The Session of Amherst Presbyterian Church would like to encourage everyone to help support the relief efforts in Syria and Turkey. Please see your bulletin insert for further details.
- Say goodbye to the doldrums of winter for a day... we're going on an adventure! Join together with others from APC in experiencing Jurassic Quest on February 25 in Rochester, NY. Click the link in the newsletter for tickets or contact Pastor Amir if you don't have internet access.
- The much-anticipated "Wonders of the Vatican" presentation by speaker Bob Poczick will take place on Saturday, March 4 in our Fellowship Hall. We're expecting a large turnout, so please contact the church office to let us know if you can help with the breakfast setup/cleanup that day.

Next week — **Sunday, February 26** — Worship Service at 10:30 AM

### **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Our friends and family in care facilities and at home, including:

Tom & May Chou, Doreen Connolly, Joan Hambleton,  
John Kelley Jr., Betty Knowl, Lois McMillan, Gail Trankle

# **Amherst Presbyterian Church**

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## **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