

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.



26th Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 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: Andante Telemann

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise # 2031 (*Sing the Faith*) - Sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Come, let us present ourselves before our God.
Bring all your troubles and anxiety to God in prayer.

People: **Surely God knows our thoughts and hears our prayers.
We find strength for living as we praise God.**

Liturgist: Lay down your arrogance and false pride.
Admit your needs as you seek God's favor.

People: **We pour out our souls before the living God.
We do not withhold from God our misery and distress.**

Liturgist: God grants our petitions and gives us peace.
The counsel of our God gladdens our hearts.

People: **In God's presence there is fullness of joy.
As we meet together, we are encouraged and comforted.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Mighty God, we confess the arrogance of our doubts and the falsehood of our denials. We have neglected to pray and have forgotten to give thanks. Many activities have become more important to us than gathering for worship. Our busyness crowds out times of private prayer. We shake our heads at the evil around us but do little to witness to a better way. Your law is seldom consulted, and your pathways of self-sacrificing love rarely explored. Turn us around, God. Only you can meet our need. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

The Holy Spirit renews in us the covenant we have made with our God, offering us forgiveness and assuring us that our lawless deeds will be remembered no more. The law of God is planted in our hearts and written on our minds so love and good deeds may become second nature to us. We are set free to express gladness and to encourage one another.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** I Sing the Mighty Power of God # 32 (purple)

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Liturgist

(please turn to page 245 of the Old Testament in your pew Bible)

SECOND READING

Mark 13:1-8

Pastor

¹ As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" ² Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" ⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The Power of Imagination”

Pastor

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

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From The Confession of Belhar

Liturgist: We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

People: who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.

Liturgist: We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family.

People: We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Liturgist: We believe that God’s lifegiving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity.

ALL: We believe that God’s lifegiving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world. Amen.

APC STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Wendy DeBello, Chair

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor

THE LORD’S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

(in unison)

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

We are encouraged to give as God has blessed us, bringing our offerings, not to win God's favor but to express our thanks, not out of habit but as a caring community that provokes one another to love and good deeds.

OFFERTORY: As the Wind Lim

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

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

Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice in the opportunity to share. Here are the fruits of your generosity and our hard work. In thanks for the perfect offering of Jesus Christ, we bring ourselves with our gifts. Show us how to combine our efforts to build wholesome relationships, extend your church, and minister in your name throughout the world. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: Go forth in confidence that God remembers you.
Go in peace, knowing you will find blessings in abundance.

People: **God is with us wherever we go.**
We seek to recognize the blessings we have ignored.

Pastor: Live your lives in a continuing relationship of prayer.
Listen for the counsel God offers every day.

People: **There is a word for us in every situation.**
God is always ready to guide our decisions.

Pastor: A new and living way opens before us.
We are learning to encourage our sisters and brothers.

People: **We seek to provoke one another to good deeds.**
Love for one another will be our highest motive.

ALL: Amen.

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — November 17, 2024

- Today's flowers are from Gian Angelo, in memory of his mother.
- Thank you to everyone who brought in canned cranberries and fruit for the Turkey Basket Project! Our basket is overflowing with your generosity, which will become a blessing to many local families this thanksgiving.
- The Sewing Group will meet on Friday, Nov. 22, 10am - 2pm. Everyone is welcome; no sewing experience needed. See Cheryl Huffaker for more details.
- We'll be decorating the church next Sunday (Nov. 24) after the worship service. Everyone is invited to help out!
- Also on Sunday, Nov. 24, we have two spots open on our Communion sign up sheet. Please sign up for setup or cleanup on the board across from the nursery.
- We are so appreciative of your enthusiastic support for this year's Adopt an Angel program. All of the Angels were adopted in record time! Be sure to bring gifts in by December 1st.
- Also due by December 1st are poinsettia orders. Order forms are in your bulletins and on the table in the narthex.
- Now through Sunday, Dec. 8th, our happy hat & mitten tree picture, along with a donation box for hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves is located in the Sunday School area of Fellowship Hall. We're also welcoming clean, gently-used winter coats. Mary-Diana will make sure all these toasty items are distributed to families who need them in our local area.
- Winter is especially cold for those living on the streets, so we're also collecting blankets for the homeless this year. Blankets can be new or used, as long as they're clean, and they'll be given to Friends of the Night People for distribution in our community. A big basket will soon be in the narthex for blanket donations through Sunday, Dec. 15th.

Next week — **Sunday, November 24**

10:30 AM - Worship Service

11:30 AM - Hanging of the greens

Amherst Presbyterian Church

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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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