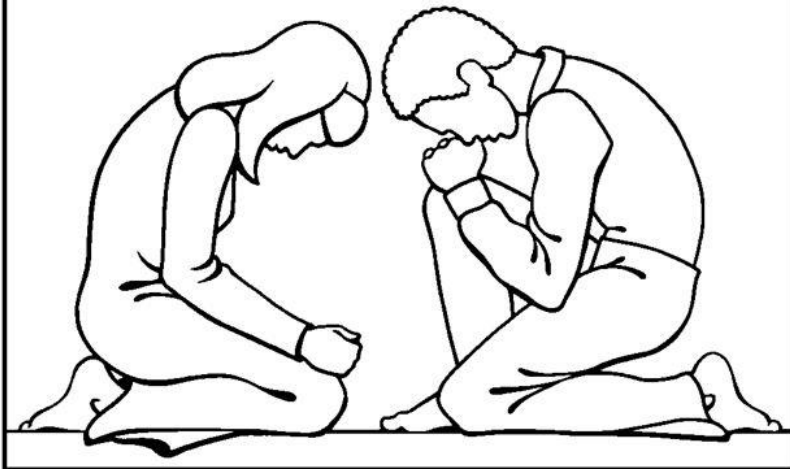


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.

“And whenever you pray...”

Matthew 6:5



7th Sunday of Easter

May 29, 2022 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: O Beautiful for Spacious Skies by Ward

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** Sanctuary # 2164 (*Sing the Faith*) - sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: The grace of Jesus Christ be with all the saints!
We have gathered in that grace to worship God.

**People: Rejoice in God and give thanks to God's holy name.
Let all heaven and earth behold God's glory.**

Liturgist: God is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.
All creation is subject to God's rule and reign.

**People: We bring our prayers and praise to God most high.
We lift our voices in hymns of celebration.**

Liturgist: Come, all who hunger, all who thirst;
Be nourished and renewed in this time of worship.

**People: We bring joys and sorrows, fullness and needs.
We come with successes and failures; we come seeking.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Hear our individual confessions, O God, as we recall the ways we ignore you every day. Listen to our regrets over the abuse we have heaped on others by our words, actions, or neglect. We join together in asking forgiveness for the ways our church inflicts injury on members of the household of faith while excluding many who differ from us. We live by our own devices rather than taking risks to follow where Christ might lead us. Deliver us, O God, from empty forms to receive the fullness of your grace and the power to live as you intend. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

Rejoice, O righteous ones, and give thanks to God's holy name. You are forgiven, saved from the wrath of one before whom mountains melt and the earth trembles. Through Christ, God's forgiving love is poured out on all who earnestly seek to be changed. We are drawn into a unity that transcends our differences and a faithfulness beyond our ability to achieve. Praise God!

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* HYMN: Eternal Father, Strong to Save # 562

FIRST READING

Daniel 6:25-27

Liturgist

²⁵ Then King Darius wrote to all peoples and nations of every language throughout the whole world: "May you have abundant prosperity! ²⁶ I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel:

For he is the living God,
enduring forever.

His kingdom shall never be destroyed,
and his dominion has no end.

²⁷ He delivers and rescues,
he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth...

SECOND READING

Matthew 6:5-13

Pastor

⁵ "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷ "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

(continued on next page)

- ⁹ “Pray then in this way:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
¹⁰ Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.
¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “When you pray...!”

Pastor

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

*** HYMN:** Though I May Speak # 335

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(in unison)

The Larger Catechism (7.289, 7.294, 7.295)

God only, being able to search the heart, hear the requests, pardon the sins, and fulfill the desires of all, and only to be believed in, and worshiped with religious worship; prayer, which is a special part thereof, is to be made by all to him alone, and to none other.

We are to pray for all things tending to the glory of God, the welfare of the church, our own or others' good; but not for anything that is unlawful.

We are to pray with an apprehension of the majesty of God, and deep sense of our own unworthiness, necessities, and sins; with penitent, thankful, and enlarged hearts; with understanding, faith, sincerity, fervency, love, and perseverance, waiting upon him with humble submission to his will.

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

Christians sometimes bring peace in the midst of turmoil. At other times, we disturb the peace with our work for justice and our championing of the oppressed. As we pool the resources God has given us, we become a powerful influence for good. Our offerings proclaim our faith. Let us give faithfully.

OFFERTORY: In His Presence by Tunney

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

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

With joy and gladness we dedicate our gifts to the service of Jesus Christ. May the abused find solace and courage; abusers be led to new awareness, sensitivity, and change; prisoners know release from bondage; and all humankind be led to accept the saving grace of Jesus Christ. To this end, we offer ourselves with these gifts. Use us as ambassadors of your love. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Believers, you have been endowed with the gospel.
Go out, with unity of spirit, to share good news.

People: **We are awed and amazed at God's gifts to us.**
With fear and trembling, we dare to represent God.

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, take love to the world.
With the spirit of truth, offer peace to the nations.

(continued on next page)

People: **We seek to live in peace with our neighbors.**
 We offer our best selves to proclaim love for all.

Pastor: Invite the thirsty to receive the water of life.
 The grace of Jesus Christ be with all the saints.

People: **We have received abounding grace.**
 With joy and thanksgiving, we pass it on.

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: Let there Be Peace on Earth/God Bless America by Miller/Berlin

Today's Worship Team

Ministers: The People and Reverend Dr. Ed Kuffel
Music Director: Donna Lorenzo
Liturgist: Tom Potts

Devotion of the Week

- 1) When you pray for God's will to be done in the world and in your life, do you really mean it? What does it look like for God's will to be done in your life?
- 2) How do the "requests" in the Lord's Prayer compare with the requests you most often make in your prayers?
- 3) As you pray for your spiritual health, who are the people with whom you need to reconcile and forgive, and what temptations do you need the most help from God to resist?
- 4) What would change in your prayers if they were more similar to the Lord's Prayer? What would need to be added? What would need to be left out?

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — May 29, 2022

- Our current safety guidelines can be found on the back of your bulletin.
- Today's flowers are from Sandy Sugg, in memory of her parents.
- We are so grateful to Reverend Dr. Ed Kuffel for leading most of our worship services during the past month. Thank you for your heartfelt, inspirational, and informative messages!
- Today is the last day that our Deacons are collecting funds for CWS Blankets. Informational flyers and envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex.
- Today is also the last day the Session is receiving gifts from the congregation for Pastor Amir and his family to help with their relocation from Egypt to the U.S. Please write "Pastor's Family Gift" on the envelope or check.
- Be sure to check out the poster in Fellowship Hall where you can sign up to be a part of the Rummage Sale (June 18); you can help with setup, sales, or cleanup.
- The church office will be closed on Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day.
- The Deacons will meet at church on Sunday, June 5 at noon.
- Next Sunday is Pentecost, and it is the final day to contribute toward the PCUSA's Pentecost Special Offering. 40% stays with our congregation to support local ministries for children, youth, and young adults; 60% is distributed through Presbyterian Mission to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Flyers and envelopes are in the Narthex.

Next week — ***Sunday, June 5*** — Pentecost

Worship Service with Communion at ***10:30 AM***

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

Doreen Connolly, Joan Hambleton, John Kelley Jr.,
Betty Knowl, Lois McMillan, Gail Trankle

Safety guidelines for in-person worship:

- ◇ Masks are optional; use of them is at the discretion of each individual. The masks in the Narthex are available to anyone who needs one.
- ◇ Hand sanitizer can be found at the entrance of the church and at various locations throughout the building.
- ◇ 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