

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.



Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.”

John 4:13-14

Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 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: Largo by Handel

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** We Sing to You, O God # 2001 (*Sing the Faith*) - verses 1 & 4

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Come, let us sing a new song to our God.

 Make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: **Let us enter God's presence with thanksgiving.**

Make a joyful noise with songs of praise!

Liturgist: God is a great ruler, above all other gods.

 The depths of the earth are in God's hands.

People: **The highest mountains belong to God.**

The farthest reaches of the universe are God's own.

Liturgist: O come, let us worship and bow down.

 Let us kneel before God our Maker.

People: **We are the people of God's pasture.**

Today we will listen to God with open hearts.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

What will you do with us, God? We are never satisfied with our lot. We rebel and complain when things don't go our way. Our hearts chase after things that become gods to us and consume our time, energy, and attention. We spend little time in communion with you and then begin to doubt your presence. You seem far away and unavailable. We create barriers among ourselves that separate us from one another and from you. Send your living water to cleanse us, O God. Empower us to worship in spirit and in truth. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

Christ died for us, demonstrating the vastness of God's love for us, bringing reconciliation and the assurance of salvation. We are offered a new quality of life in which faithfulness is valued more highly than security. Rise up, all who have been drifting through life. Christ has come to lead us through the shadowed valleys. Let us respond in spirit and truth.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

*** HYMN:** O Come and Sing Unto the Lord # 214 - verses 1, 2, 3, & 5

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

Liturgist

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

SECOND READING

John 4:5-15

Pastor

⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out

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by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Thirsty for God"

Pastor

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

* **HYMN:** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing # 356 (sing to music from # 355)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

(in unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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

When we stop to consider the amazing riches God has provided on this planet, how thankful we should be. Good soil and water give us food in abundance. Gifts of the Spirit grant life with eternity in it. Let us express our wonder and gratitude through our offering of tithes and lives.

OFFERTORY: Great is Thy Faithfulness, arr. DuChamp

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

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

Thank you, God, for all the ways we have benefited from the labor of others. We here offer our best for the sake of brothers and sisters who need the love and encouragement you are eager to share through us. Keep us from being ungrateful as we continue to receive so much more than we stop to realize. When life is difficult, help us to endure and to hope because your love is sure and certain, ours to receive and to give, in Christ's name. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: The peace of God goes with us and dwells with us.

By God's grace, we share in the hope of glory.

People: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Through this love, we are reconciled to God.

Pastor: Go, therefore, to tell your friends and neighbors.

God has done great things for us.

People: God is to be worshiped in spirit and truth.

Every moment of every day is a time for praise.

Pastor: We scatter, singing songs of thanksgiving.

We will make a joyful noise, in praise to God.

People: We will also listen for messages God sends.

God is among us and goes with us every day.

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: Where'er You Walk by Handel

Today's Worship Team

Ministers: The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous

Music Director: Donna Lorenzo

Liturgist: Tom Potts

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

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — March 12, 2023

- Included with your bulletin today (and each week until Easter) is a Lenten Devotional that encourages us to think about how we relate to and care for the earth.
- The next Session Meeting will be on Monday, March 13 at 7 PM via Zoom.
- We apologize for the chilly water at church today. Our hot water tank is in need of replacement, so we won't have hot water available at any faucets for a few days.
- One of our favorite fellowship events is back! On Sunday, March 19, our Deacons are delighted to present the return of the Finger Foods Luncheon! Everyone is welcome in Fellowship Hall after worship on the 19th for mini sandwiches, snacks, and desserts. (*A freewill offering basket will be available.*)

Next week — ***Sunday, March 19***

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service with communion

11:45 AM - Finger Foods Luncheon

Devotion of the Week

Let us read ***Exodus 17:1-7*** and ***John 4:5-15***.

Questions for your meditation:

When you are thirsty for water, what does that feel like? What signs of dehydration emerge for you?

When you are thirsty for God, what does that feel like? What signs of spiritual dehydration emerge for you? What has helped quench this spiritual thirst in the past?

Amherst Presbyterian Church

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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(scheduling your visit is recommended)

Church website: <https://amherstpreshurch.com>

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