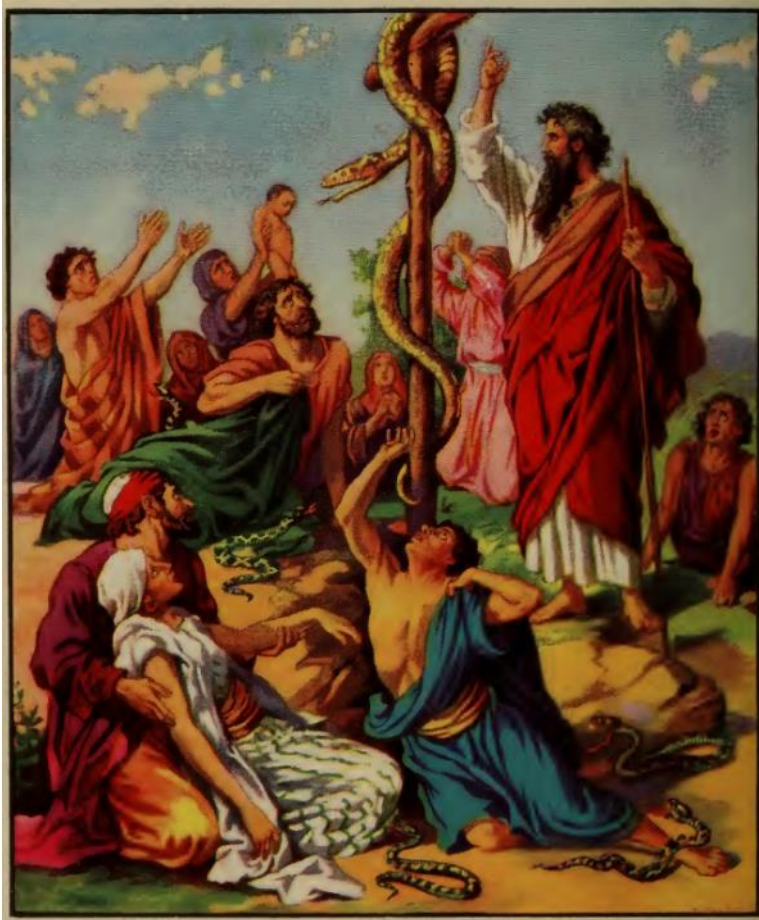


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



4th Sunday in Lent

March 10, 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: Meditation on “If Thou Would Suffer God to Guide Thee” Neumark

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *Liturgist*

* **INTROIT:** He Is Exalted # 2070 (*Sing the Faith*) - sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Light has entered our world; rejoice!
Light is God’s gift to each, and to all together.

People: **Give thanks to God for days of watchful care.**
The steadfast love of God endures forever.

Liturgist: Let those whom God has redeemed rejoice!
Let them tell the world of God’s good news!

People: **We will thank God for wonderful works.**
We will rejoice in God’s love for all humankind.

Liturgist: By God’s word, we are delivered from destruction.
By God’s mercy, we are healed and made whole.

People: **Our voices will join in songs of joy.**
Our lives will offer sacrifices of thanksgiving.

ALL: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Healing God, we are sick through our sinful ways. We are impatient, complaining, and troubled. We love the night because it hides the evil we have done and the doubt that shows on our faces. By our self-indulgent habits, we are destroying ourselves and depriving others. As a church, we seem content to be dead in our trespasses, for we are afraid to embrace the changes that come with the new life you offer. We cry out to you in our trouble. Save us from our distress. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

God loved the world so much that Jesus Christ was sent to show us the way to eternal life. We are not condemned, but offered saving grace. Come to the light. Let its warmth melt away our resistance to God's truth. We are re-created in Jesus Christ that we may do the good that God intends and make that goodness our way of life. Praise God!

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** To God Be the Glory # 634 (purple)

FIRST READING

John 3:14-21

Liturgist

¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed.

²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

SECOND READING

Numbers 21:4-9

Pastor

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The people spoke

(continued on next page)

against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.”⁶ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.⁷ The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.”⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Once Again!”

Pastor

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

* **HYMN:** There Is a Balm in Gilead # 792 (purple)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(in unison)

Adapted from The Confession of 1967

God’s reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd’s life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God’s love for humankind. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God’s reconciling work.

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor

THE LORD’S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

(in unison)

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

In joyous thanksgiving, we offer sacrifices of time and resources to announce God's healing grace to the world. It is our privilege to participate in God's wonderful works to humankind, to share the steadfast love that is saving us, and to offer life to those who are perishing.

OFFERTORY: God So Loved the World Stainer

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

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

For life-sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted—for shelter, food, and meaningful tasks to do; for your steadfast love that awakens us and raises us from our sinful ways; for your word that guides and heals us—we give you thanks, gracious God. As we invest a part of all you entrust to us to further the ministries of the church, may we show to others the immeasurable riches of your grace in Jesus Christ. Make this church a beacon of hope for the world. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: God sent Jesus that the world may believe.
God sends us into the world to share that good news.

**People: In Christ, we are not condemned to perish.
Christ came to offer us abundant life.**

Pastor: Let everyone see the light you have received.
Live openly as people enjoying the love of God.

**People: Let those whom God has redeemed say so.
Let us give thanks for God's steadfast love.**

Pastor: We are alive together in Christ Jesus.
God offers to all the gift of eternal life, beginning now.

**People: By grace, we have been saved through faith.
We will live in the light and thus share good news.**

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: Simple Gifts Brackett

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:	The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous
Music Director:	Dr. Donna Lorenzo
Liturgist:	Tom Potts
Vocalists:	The APC Singers

TIME CHANGE SONG

(Sung to the tune of Guide Me Now, Thou Great Jehovah)



God of sleep, and God of slumber
Help us not be late, we ask:
Changing clocks one forward number,
May we not forget this task.
Choir directors, preachers, teachers,
All will bless your holy name,
If to Sunday church on time we came.

Devotion of the Week

Let us read **John 3:14-21** and **Numbers 21:4-9**.

Questions for your meditation:

What prevents us from seeing the goodness of God?

In what ways are we tempted to assume a posture that turns us toward what harms us instead of what heals us?

What *tangible* thing might we do this week to help our community look up and see the healing and life God is waiting to give us?

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — March 10, 2024

- Everyone is invited to today's Elder-Deacon Meeting to review APC's 2023 goals and develop goals for 2024. Gather in Fellowship Hall after the service.
- Please note the Deacons' Finger Foods Luncheon has been moved to next week, and will be after the service on Sunday, March 17. We might even see some green goodies that day for those who have 'a wee bit o Irish' in them.
- The next Session meeting will be on Monday, March 11 at 7:00 PM, via Zoom.
- Every week this month we're having "Undies Sundays" to collect new undergarments for Friends of the Night People, an organization that provides basic necessities to those experiencing hunger, poverty and homelessness in Buffalo, NY. See one of our Deacons, our newsletter, or the sign on the basket in the Narthex for details about sizes and styles of socks and underwear most needed.
- It's time to order your Easter Flowers! Choose from Daffodils, Hyacinths, Irises, and Tulips, each for \$9 per 6" potted plant or 3 for \$25. Give the enclosed order form to Lois Potts by March 17th.
- Thank you to those who have volunteered to assist with communion this month, which will be served on the 24th for Palm Sunday and the 31st for Easter. We still have a few more openings; please sign up on the bulletin board across from the Nursery, or call/email the church office.
- Special envelopes and flyers are available in the Narthex throughout the month of March for the PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing. Your gifts help support critical programs including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People program.

Next week — ***Sunday, March 17***

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service

11:30 AM - Finger Foods Luncheon

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

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