

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.



*His father saw him and was
filled with compassion*

Luke 15:20

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 17, 2021 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 Gott, du frommer Gott *Bach*

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** I Love You, Lord # 2068 (*Sing the Faith*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Let your minds ponder the manifold works of God.
Let your spirits soar amid the wonders of creation.

People: **There is pulsating life all around us.**
The earth is full of God's creatures.

Liturgist: Sun and rain proclaim God's infinite imagination.
Moon and stars sing the glory of the Eternal One.

People: **It is God who shares with us wisdom and understanding.**
We depend on God for the gift of life.

Liturgist: We gather to worship and praise the God of all people.
We come to learn from the God we only dimly perceive.

People: **We reach out for answers to our questions.**
We long to find meaning and purpose for our days.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Reigning God, we confess that we, like the disciples James and John, seek places of honor, privilege, and reward. We succumb to the temptation to compare ourselves with others to our advantage. We want privilege without pain, greatness without the grind of hard work. We expect rewards for our efforts. We talk about serving you, but we do not want the rank of servant. We have lots of ideas about what you might do to intervene in the world and little commitment to what we might do in your name. Forgive us and help us, gracious God.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

The tears and prayers of Christ are for us. The gift of the Holy Spirit re-creates us for ministry. Bless and thank our God for the manifold works which have sustained our lives and given them meaning. God deals gently with the ignorant and wayward. God is patient with our pretensions, seeking always to welcome us home to true community. Praise God!

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** The Summons # 2130, verses 1 & 2 *(Sing the Faith)*
 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus # 2129, verses 1 & 2

FIRST READING

Psalm 103:1-14

Liturgist

- ¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
 bless his holy name.
- ² Bless the Lord, O my soul,
 and do not forget all his benefits—
- ³ who forgives all your iniquity,
 who heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit,
 who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- ⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live
 so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- ⁶ The Lord works vindication
 and justice for all who are oppressed.
- ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses,
 his acts to the people of Israel.
- ⁸ The Lord is merciful and gracious,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ He will not always accuse,
 nor will he keep his anger forever.

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- ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- ¹² as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.
- ¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.
- ¹⁴ For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.

SECOND READING

Luke 15:20-24

Pastor

²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON

“Forgiving Like Jesus!”

Pastor

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

* **HYMN:** I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry # 2051 (*Sing the Faith*)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(in unison)

WE ARE JUSTIFIED ON ACCOUNT OF CHRIST. Now it is most certain that all of us are by nature sinners and godless, and before God's judgment-seat are

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convicted of godlessness and are guilty of death, but that, solely by the grace of Christ and not from any merit of ours or consideration for us, we are justified, that is, absolved from sin and death by God the Judge. For what is clearer than what Paul said: "Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus."
(5.107, *The Second Helvetic Confession*)

It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the prophet, priest, and king; the head and Savior of his Church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world; unto whom he did, from all eternity, give a people to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.
(6.043, *The Westminster Book of Confession*)

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

(in unison)

* **HYMN:** Sweet, Sweet Spirit *(insert)*

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

For Jesus, a life lived for others was the only life consistent with God's reign. The church exists to increase among us the love of God and neighbor, and to build within us the deep conviction that we are beloved, valued, people of worth. It is to this high mission that we devote our offerings for ministry in this community and throughout God's world.

OFFERTORY SOLO: My Jesus, I Love Thee (arr.)

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

(in unison)

We give with joy, loving God, in thanks for all you have allowed us to experience. By your love, we have survived and learned and grown. We dedicate these gifts that more people may be brought to the feet of Jesus, who is the

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eternal source of salvation. Equip us to be an inviting, caring community in which all your ignorant and wayward people find a genuine welcome and are lifted up to new understanding and joy. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: You are clothed with honor and wrapped in light.
Bless God and proclaim God's greatness to the world.

**People: In Christ, we are growing in wisdom and understanding.
How manifold are the works of God!**

Pastor: God has chosen us to be priests to our neighbors.
Deal gently and lovingly with the children of God.

**People: We will daily turn to God in prayer and supplication.
With reverent submission, we will seek to do God's will.**

Pastor: There is glory in humble tasks done in God's name.
Abounding joy awaits you in God's service.

**People: We face another week of living, with hope.
God is strengthening all of us as loyal servants.**

ALL: Amen.

POSTLUDE: The Church's One Foundation (arr.)

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:	The People and Reverend Dr. Ed Kuffel
Music Director:	Nancy Lorenzo-Deleys
Liturgist:	Leslie Palermo
Usher:	Roberta Jones

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Our friends and family in care facilities and at home, including:
Doreen Connolly, Joan Hambleton, John Kelley Jr., Betty Knowle,
Lois McMillan, Mel Palmer, Gail Trankle

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — October 17, 2021

- Our current safety guidelines can be found on the back of your bulletin.
- We are pleased to welcome this morning, our guest preacher, Dr. Ed Kuffel.
- Pastor Amir is on vacation until Thursday, October 28. Our Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Dave Smith, is available for Pastoral Care during this time.
- On **Monday, October 18**, the new livestreaming **camera system** will be installed in the sanctuary. If anyone is interested in how to operate the system, they are encouraged to participate in the **training** at **4 PM** that day. Many thanks to everyone who gave toward this project; your contributions totaled \$5170!

Next week — ***Sunday, October 24*** — Worship Service at **10:30 AM**

Devotion of the Week

Colossians 3:12-14 gives Christians a mandate to forgive others the same way Jesus has forgiven us.

Luke 15:11-32 gives us an example to follow as to how Jesus has forgiven us.

- * Who in your life has hurt you?
- * What are the biggest obstacles in your life that hinder you from forgiving others as Jesus has forgiven you?
- * How do you imagine your life being better if you forgive others as Jesus forgave you?
- * What will you add to your spiritual life and/or remove from your life to make it more likely to forgive others as Jesus forgave you?
- * Spend time this week basking in the forgiveness of God, and how that has transformed your life?

Please observe the following safety guidelines for in-person worship:

- ◇ The congregation is asked to please follow CDC guidelines for masks, based on their vaccination status and overall health.
- ◇ 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://amherstpreschurch.com>

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