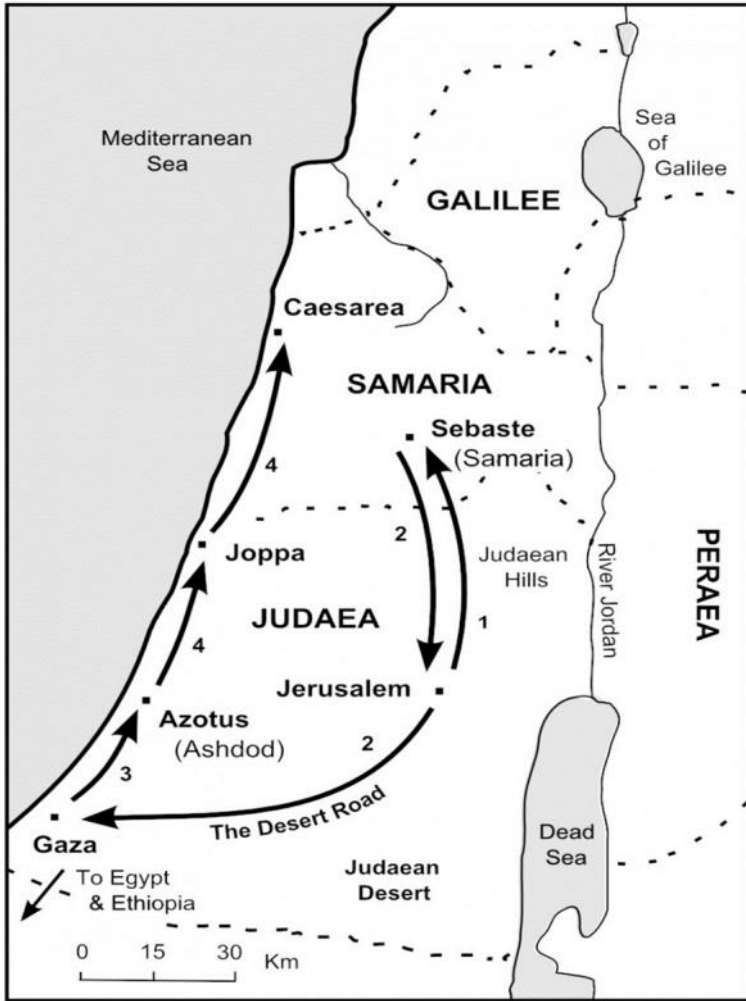


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all. You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



***5th Sunday of Easter***  
**April 28, 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: Christ, the Sure Foundation Birchwood

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Liturgist*

\* INTROIT: We Sing of Your Glory # 2011 (*Sing the Faith*) - Verses 1 and 2

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Come to worship God whose love was revealed in Jesus.  
Let all the ends of the earth turn to our God.

People: **We will worship the Almighty and sing praises.  
We will proclaim good news to others.**

Liturgist: Beloved, we are called to love as God loves us.  
We are to love one another as sisters and brothers.

People: **Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.  
We seek to let God's love be perfected in us.**

Liturgist: Remember that you have been baptized.  
God claims you and has high expectations of you.

People: **Christ is the vine; we are the branches.  
We will bear fruit when we abide in the vine.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(in unison)*

O God, we have ignored our origin in you and denied your rule over the nations. We have pursued illusions of self-interest rather than abiding in your love. We have turned away from brothers and sisters as if they were enemies to be hated. We are afraid to love those who differ from us or who have the power to harm us. We hesitate to take the risks of caring for fear that we may be hurt. Discipleship seems too demanding. O God, release us from our fears and failures to trust your love and live with bold generosity. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*(in unison)*

There is good news for all who sincerely repent and seek a living, growing relationship with God. Those who are open to the gift of God's love are blessed with the capacity to extend love to others and thus experience the depth and riches of life that God intends for us. When we love one another, God's love is perfected in us.

## PASSING OF PEACE

*Pastor*

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

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

\* **HYMN:** All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly # 509 (purple)

## FIRST READING

Psalm 22:25-31

*Liturgist*

- <sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- <sup>26</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live forever!
- <sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.
- <sup>28</sup> For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.
- <sup>29</sup> To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.
- <sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord,
- <sup>31</sup> and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

**SECOND READING**

Acts 8:26-40

*Pastor*

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)  
<sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

<sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

People:           **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON****"How to Read the Bible"***Pastor*

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

\* **HYMN:**        Go to the World!    # 295 (purple)

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Nicene Creed

*(in unison)*

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Pastor*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

(using debts/debtors)

*(in unison)*

**OFFERTORY INVITATION**

*Liturgist*

God loves us so much that Jesus was sent to be the atoning sacrifice for our sin. The balm of love was offered for our healing so we might be reconciled to God and one another. What will we offer in thanksgiving for so great a gift?

**OFFERTORY:**

Take Time to Be Holy    Longstaff

\* **DOXOLOGY:**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow    # 606

**\* OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*(in unison)*

We give, gracious God, because we are grateful. Your love has sustained us through many trials and temptations. We are thankful for those who have guided our attempts to understand the scriptures. Your loving judgment has provided the pruning our lives require in order to bear fruit. We give in order to extend to others the blessings we have received and to continue the ministry we need as we seek to abide together in your love. Amen.

**\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Live for God every moment of every day.  
Take time to bow down in gratitude for God's love.

**People: We seek to live as people who know God.  
Because we are loved, we dare to love others.**

Pastor: Do not be afraid to witness to your growing faith.  
Do not hesitate to show the fruits of abiding in Christ.

**People: We will turn to the perfect love that casts out fear.  
We will tell of that love to future generations.**

Pastor: You have been equipped and empowered by love.  
God is filling your life with purpose and energy.

**People: We love because God first loved us.  
We go out to serve as apostles of Jesus Christ.**

**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: Lead On, O King Eternal Shurtleff**

Ministers: The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous  
Music Director: Dr. Donna Lorenzo

Liturgist: Tom Potts  
Vocalists: The APC Singers

## **APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — April 28, 2024**

- Today's flowers are in memory of Mel Palmer's birthday; she would have been 96 on May 1st. With love from Lois and Tom.
- This summer we'd like to have another adventure together on the Spirit of Buffalo. Sail boat tours are available from mid-May through the end of September. Please contact the church office to let us know which month and week are best for you.
- Please pick up your quarterly giving statements from the table in the Narthex. Call or email the church office with any questions or concerns.
- Special envelopes and flyers are available in the Narthex until May 19 for the PCUSA's Pentecost Special Offering. Your gifts nurture the faith of those who are the church to come by supporting programs for children, youth, and young adults.

Next week — ***Sunday, May 5***

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service

12:00 PM - Deacons' Meeting

### **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

### ***Devotion of the Week***

Let us read ***Acts 8:26-40***.

#### **Questions for your meditation:**

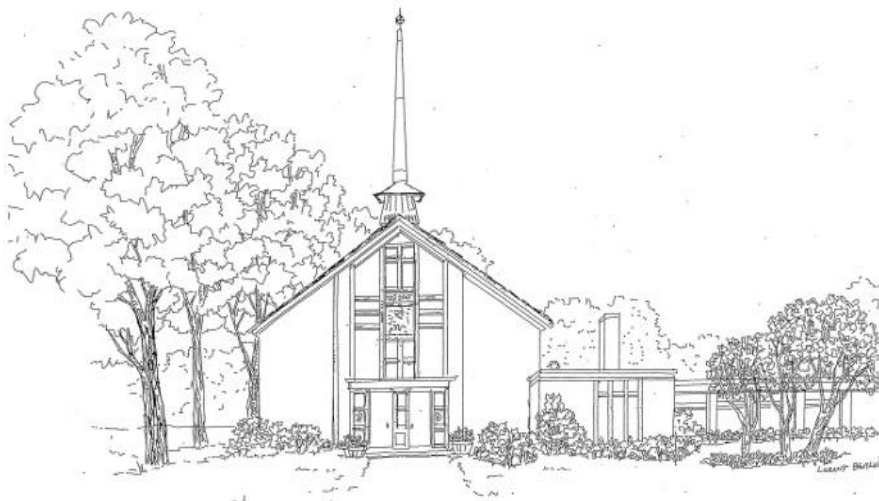
Who are the people in your life who have shown and told you the gospel?

What can we learn from the biblical story in Acts 8:26-40?

# Amherst Presbyterian Church

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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