

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.

**Then Jesus took
the loaves, and
when he had
given thanks, he
distributed them
to those who
were seated;**



**so also the fish,
as much as they
wanted.**

John 6:11

10th Sunday after Pentecost

July 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: Andante Cambini

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** Great Is the Lord # 2022 (*Sing the Faith*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: This is the hour to bend our knee before God.
This is a time to offer our best to our Creator.

People: **We gather before God, who sees all our deeds.**
We open our hearts to One who knows all our thoughts.

Liturgist: Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."
We come together proclaiming, "God is with us!"

People: **We come to be strengthened in our inner being.**
We seek to pattern our actions after Christ Jesus.

Liturgist: God's presence evokes our joyous worship.
The Holy Spirit empowers our service.

People: **To God be highest glory in the church.**
To God be endless adoration in the world.

ALL: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

O God, you know our secret hearts. You are aware of our distortions, our jealousies, our lust. You observe our unfaithfulness, our treachery, our unwarranted fears. We are corrupted by greed, self-indulgence, and desire to be entertained. We do not take responsibility for our misconduct, our abuse of power, our lack of trust in you. We have little sense of vision to see beyond immediate circumstances or to embrace new possibilities. We miss the signs of your grace and

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resist the empowerment of your Spirit. Mighty God, still the storms within us with your transforming peace and boundless forgiveness, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

All who truly repent can know the love of Christ that surpasses human knowledge. We are rescued, delivered, and restored to fullness of life in God, our Creator. We are being rooted and grounded in love that we, in turn, might show love to others. We are invited to join the saints in realizing ever fuller dimensions of life centered in faith and trust.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee # 611 (purple)

FIRST READING

Psalm 145:10-18

Liturgist

(please turn to page 581 of the Old Testament in your pew Bible)

SECOND READING

John 6:1-21

Pastor

¹ After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ² A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near.

⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all.

¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed

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them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"God's Abundance"

Pastor

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

* **HYMN:** My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less # 353 (purple)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From A Brief Statement of Faith

(in unison)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

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In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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

We have gladly taken more than our share of the world's good. Let us give in proportion to the blessings we have received. May the church be at the forefront of feeding, healing, caring for, and loving God's people. We are the church, the body of Christ, making a difference in the world.

OFFERTORY: Jesus Lover of My Soul Parry

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

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

We join with Jesus in giving thanks for the little things we can see, that our eyes may be opened to the great possibilities we had not imagined. May our efforts be multiplied by your grace so there is more than enough for all—more comfort in sorrow, more relief from pain, more mercy to meet our treachery, more sense of presence amid our loneliness, more strength to overcome our weakness, more joy and enthusiasm to erase our apathy. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: Go out to share what you have received.

God will multiply the gifts that you give away.

People: We will turn away from fears of scarcity.

We will celebrate and share our abundance.

Pastor: God meets you amid the storms of life.

God goes with you through the terrors of the night.

People: We are embraced by God's steadfast love.

We will look up and not be afraid.

Pastor: May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen your inner being.

People: To God be glory in the church forever.

May Christ be honored in all we say and do.

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: Bourrée Bach

Today's Worship Team

Ministers: The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous

Music Director: Dr. Donna Lorenzo

Liturgist: Leslie Palermo

Vocalists: The APC Singers

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 — July 28, 2024

- Today's flowers are given by Donna Hoffman, "Happy heavenly 34th birthday Vincent Osika, from mom."
- **This Friday, August 2nd**, is our **SUMMER SERENADE!** We'll begin at 6 PM with a potluck picnic, followed by music at 7 PM. APC will provide hot dogs; attendees are asked to please bring their place setting (plate/utensils) and something to share. The sign up sheet for side dishes and desserts is on the bulletin board across from the nursery, or you can call/email the church office.
- If you have photos we could use in an updated APC brochure (services, events, or activities from the past five years), please leave them in Mary Scheeder's mail slot. Be sure to include your name with the pictures so they can be returned to you. Digital images can be emailed to amherstpc@verizon.net.

Next week — **Sunday, August 4**

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service with Communion

Devotion of the Week

Let us read **John 6:1-21**.

Questions for your meditation:

When have you experienced scarcity — not enough food, finances or other resources — and what was your response?

When have you experienced God's abundance amid scarcity? How did it happen, and what was your response?

When and where have you experienced a diversity of people and their gifts as a sign of God's abundance amid scarcity?

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