

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 of Easter***

**May 11, 2025 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: Bless This House Brahe

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Liturgist*

\* INTROIT: Lead Me, Guide Me # 740 (purple)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Arise, people of God, to greet the one who calls us;  
come alive to the Spirit's energy among us.

People: **God awakens us and restores our souls.  
Surely God's goodness and mercy are with us here.**

Liturgist: The shepherd is calling us to new ventures.  
We are invited to a higher quality of life.

People: **We will not fear to walk through shadowed valleys.  
God's love in Christ is with us everywhere.**

Liturgist: Come to drink from springs of living water.  
Gather to find comfort and blessing here.

People: **Surely God will guide our search for truth.  
We seek eternal values within our daily walks.**

\* HYMN: Great Is Thy Faithfulness # 39 (purple)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*(in unison)*

O God, we look at events around us and cannot perceive you within them. We shed tears and find no comfort. We listen for your voice and are greeted by silence. The world seems full of enemies waiting to devour us. On every hand, there are problems too complicated for us to solve. We live in fear rather than faith. We cry out to you for answers. O God, do you hear us? Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*(in unison)*

In the silence, there is presence too deep for words. The works of God surround us even now, bearing witness to an unseen hand. Multitudes of people from every nation and time join in chorus: "Salvation belongs to our God!" The shepherd will guide us to springs of living water, and our tears will be wiped away. We are freed to live boldly and courageously, through Christ!

## **PASSING OF PEACE**

*Pastor*

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

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

**APC SINGERS:** Love At Home      McNaughton

**GLORIA PATRI:** Glory Be to the Father # 581 (purple)

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENTS**

### **FIRST READING**

Isaiah 53:1-6

*Liturgist*

- <sup>1</sup> Who has believed what we have heard?  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
- <sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
- <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by others;  
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;  
and as one from whom others hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him of no account.
- <sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.
- <sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;

*(continued on next page)*

upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

## **SECOND READING**

Acts 9:36-43

*Pastor*

<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup> At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup> So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup> Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup> Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERMON**

**"Vital But Often Unseen"**

*Pastor*

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

\* **HYMN:** Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us # 187 (purple)

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

A Brief Statement of Faith (7-26)

*(in unison)*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of

*(continued on next page)*

God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

## **SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Pastor*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (using debts/debtors)

*(in unison)*

## **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

*Liturgist*

Surely the goodness of God overflows in our lives. Take time to count your blessings. The works of God are all around us. In these moments, we have the opportunity to offer ourselves and our substance to extend God's work on earth.

**OFFERTORY:** Give Me Jesus / Just A Closer Walk With Thee Spiritual

\* **DOXOLOGY:** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow # 606 (purple)

## \* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*(in unison)*

Make these moments a feast of dedication to your purposes among us, loving God. May we serve you night and day, wherever we are, in all we do. Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.

## \* **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Go forward from this place as praying, caring people.  
Let good works and charity abound.

**People: We believe God calls us to make a difference.  
God wants us to change the world.**

*(continued on next page)*

Pastor: Your deeds bear witness to God's love.  
Others will believe because of your faith.

**People: We trust the shepherd to lead and guide us.  
We look to God for the strength we need.**

Pastor: Surely goodness and mercy will follow us.  
Our eternal home is part of us right now.

**People: God's salvation has come to us. Alleluia!  
We will praise and honor our God forever and ever.**

**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: The Family of God Gaither**

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.  
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!  
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,  
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.

Today's Worship Team

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

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Our friends and family in care facilities and at home, including:  
May Chou, Andy Chou, Joan Hambleton, Betty Knowl, Lois McMillan, Gail Trankle

## APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — May 11, 2025

- Happy Mother's Day!
- Today's flowers are given by Lois Potts, in loving memory of Ted.
- The Session will meet on Monday, May 12, at 7:00 PM, in Fellowship Hall.
- Rachael Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 13, at Noon, in Fellowship Hall.
- Our Deacons invite you to a Finger Foods Luncheon on Sunday, May 18, after the service, in Fellowship Hall.
- Also on May 18th is our Bible Study, at 9:30 AM. Everyone is welcome.
- Throughout the month of May our Deacons are collecting donations for Church World Service's Blanket Mission. See your bulletin insert for more details.
- The Pentecost Special Offering will be collected on behalf of the PCUSA until June 8th. It is used for programs that build a foundation of faith in children, youth, and young adults. Flyers and special envelopes are available in the narthex.

Next week — ***Sunday, May 18***

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service

12:00 PM - Finger Foods Luncheon

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

Let us read **Acts 9:36-43**.

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

What resurrection stories can you tell? Where have you witnessed people or communities being brought from death to life?

Who serves as Tabitha in your faith community? Whose work keeps your congregation alive and well?

What counter-cultural story does your faith community tell? Who is devalued by society that is valued in your faith community?

# Amherst Presbyterian Church

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**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:** [www.amherstpreshurch.com](http://www.amherstpreshurch.com)

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