

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 after Pentecost

July 2, 2023 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: My Country 'Tis of Thee Smith

Jim Price, Trumpet

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** When Morning Gilds the Skies # 487 (*verses 1 & 4*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Early in the morning, our thoughts turn toward God.
We have been led to this mountaintop of worship.

People: We come, trusting in God's steadfast love.
We gather, seeking the way of salvation and peace.

Liturgist: God has made an everlasting covenant with us.
Let us proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

People: Sometimes we think God has forgotten us.
Often we do not understand what God expects of us.

Liturgist: God deals bountifully with us in much that we take for granted.
God shows us the value of life and helps us celebrate it.

People: We bring our sorrow and pain to this healing time.
May God provide what we need to grow in Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Free us, O God, from such absorption in our own concerns that we forget your loving intention for us. We find it hard to view what is happening around us through any eyes but our own. We obey our own passions rather than joining your intention for the good of all. It is hard for us, who so value our autonomy, to speak of obedience. Yet we are ashamed of things we have done and things we have failed to do. We want to claim your free gift of eternal life through Jesus

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Christ. We sense that you intend for us to accept and live within that gift here and now. Help us, loving God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

We are not under law but under grace. We are being given God's great bounty as we receive the teaching of Jesus, the witness of our spiritual forebears, and the exultation of the psalmist. God comes to us, not only from the past, but in every moment when we welcome another with even a cup of water in Christ's name. We are forgiven and renewed!

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** We Walk by Faith # 2196 (*Sing the Faith*)

FIRST READING

Genesis 22:1-8

Liturgist

¹ After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

SECOND READING

Genesis 22:9-14

Pastor

⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON**"God will provide..."***Pastor*

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE*Follow Insert***STATEMENT OF FAITH***(in unison)*

A Brief Statement of Faith (Lines 7-26)

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

(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 can offer to God only what we have been given. God may require our dearest treasure, for it is only lent to us for a time. What God has provided, we are now invited to invest in the disciple-making business of the church.

OFFERTORY: Victory in Jesus Arr.

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

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

We bring our offering, not with thought of reward, but because we are grateful. We give, not from guilt over having so much, but because it is such a privilege and joy to share. We dedicate these gifts, not to pay bills, but to enable a ministry that meets basic human needs with the good news of the gospel. May your people be empowered to give the service each moment requires, in even a deed as simple as giving a cup of cold water to quench another's thirst. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Scatter into the world, believing God will provide.
Our service in Christ's name will be blessed.

People: **We present ourselves for service in the world.**
 We seek to be instruments of righteousness.

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Pastor: Extend Christ's welcome to your friends.
Dare to share that welcome with strangers.

People: **We will honor all people as God's own.**
 We will reach out to bless all God's children.

Pastor: God's grace will be with you wherever you go.
There is delightful freedom in serving God.

People: **We rejoice in the light we have received.**
 We accept with joy the tasks of discipleship.

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: God Bless America (Everyone Sing)

Today's Worship Team

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

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 2, 2023

- Today's flowers are given by Sandy Sugg, in memory of her mom, Sally Riggs.
- We are considering gathering together for a day as a church family at a local retreat center. Please complete the online survey we sent on June 19 (the survey link can also be found in the newsletter). For those without computer access, paper surveys are available on the table in the Narthex; please turn them today before you leave.
- Although many groups take a little break from meeting during the summer, we still have opportunities to nurture your spirit through growth and service. Our morning Bible Study meets on the first and third Sundays of the month at 9:30 AM, and the Sewing Group meets on the first and third Fridays of the month at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome in both of these groups. For questions about the Bible Study see Pastor Amir, and for questions about the Sewing Group see Cheryl Huffaker.

Next week — ***Sunday, July 9*** — Worship service at 10:30 AM

Devotion of the Week

Let us read ***Genesis 22:1-14***.

Questions for your meditation:

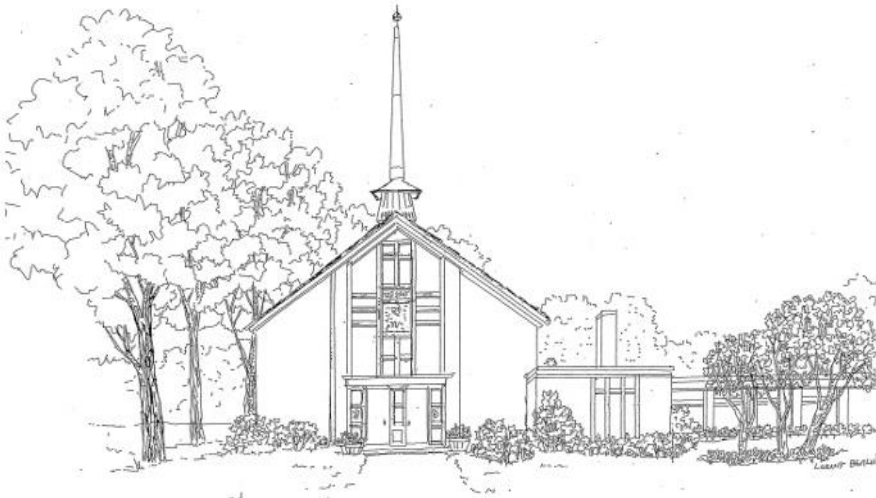
When Abraham tells Isaac, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering," do you think he believes what he is saying or just sincerely hopes it is true? Is there a difference?

What do you make of this difficult text? Should we be willing to hold Abraham up as a paragon of faith for nearly sacrificing his child? What do you think is the main message of this story?

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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