

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 Epiphany

February 4, 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: Adagio Mozart

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** They That Wait Upon the Lord (See extra sheet)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Worship God, who is from everlasting to everlasting!
The God of creation does not faint or grow weary.

**People: How good it is to sing praises to our God!
How expansive is God's understanding of us!**

Liturgist: The whole universe is subject to God's power.
Creation continues as the universe expands.

**People: God rules all time and space, yet cares about us.
God is pleased with all who reflect steadfast love.**

Liturgist: Sing to God with great thanksgiving.
Praise God with the best you have to offer.

**People: We lift up our eyes to see God's wonders.
We open our ears to receive God's message.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Who are we to claim equality with you, Ruler of all worlds? Yet we try to order you around when it is we who should be taking orders. At times, we act as if we can get along without you. In our church, we often pretend that we don't need other congregations. We hoard the gospel as if it were our possession, and thus we do not follow its mandates. We bend your law to our own whims and then excuse our disobedience. Forgive us, God. We are not worthy to carry the name of Christ. Restore us to yourself, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

God calls each of us by name. Every community of faith is known to God, whose understanding is unlimited. The One who knows our hearts is eager to forgive the truly penitent and to empower those who have grown weary. Your strength is being renewed in these moments. You will mount up with wings like eagles. You will run and not be weary. You will walk and not faint. Praise God!

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** Arise, Your Light is Come! # 744 (purple)

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:21-31

Pastor: Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

**Liturgist: It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.**

Pastor: Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,

(continued on next page)

calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,

not one is missing.

Liturgist: **Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
'My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God'?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.**

Pastor: Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“On Eagle’s Wings”

Pastor

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

*** HYMN:** On Eagles Wings #43 (purple)

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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(in unison)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.

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 an obligation to proclaim the gospel. We are entrusted with a commission. So we give freely of our time and abilities where we are, and we send and support the witness of others where we cannot go. Let us continue to give generously.

OFFERTORY: He Touched Me and Made Me Whole Gaither

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

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

Thank you, God, for showing us a better way to live than we are able to devise for ourselves. Thank you for reaching out to win our hearts. Thank you for Jesus Christ, for the ministry that extended your love to the least and the lost, for the powerful presence that offered wholeness to those who were sick or brokenhearted, for the prayers that demonstrated how we, too, can be in communion with you. In gratitude, we dedicate this offering. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Go out to serve. Someone needs you today.
What you have to give will be helpful to someone.

**People: We pray God will open our eyes to needs around us.
We will look for ways to be helpful.**

Pastor: Go in the name of Jesus Christ, who sends us.
Speak a healing word. Do a caring deed.

**People: God binds up wounds of the brokenhearted.
Surely God will empower our ministry.**

Pastor: God strengthens the powerless and helps the weak.
God's power will be in you when you pray.

**People: We shall run and not be weary.
We will serve in the strength God supplies.**

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: Victory in Jesus Arr.

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:

Tom & May Chou, Doreen Connolly, Joan Hambleton,
John Kelley Jr., Betty Knowl, Lois McMillan, Gail Trankle

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — February 4, 2024

- Today's flowers are from Cheryl "Happy Birthday Dave, with love from Cheryl"
- The Deacons will meet in Fellowship Hall today at noon.
- If you haven't done so already, please pick up your annual giving statement from the table in the narthex.
- Ash Wednesday this year will be on February 14th. APC will host a pancake dinner that evening at 6:00 PM, followed by a service with our sister churches at 7:00 PM. Diners are asked to please bring their own place settings and RSVP to Jim Price at jdprice@buffalo.edu (to ensure we have enough pancakes for everyone). You may also bring a favorite topping to share.

Next week — **Sunday, February 11** — Worship Service at 10:30 AM

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service

12:00 PM - Deacons' Meeting

Devotion of the Week

Let us read **Isaiah 40:21-31**

Questions for your meditation:

1. What thoughts, feelings, idea or images arose as you read this passage?
2. What exhausts you in your life of faith? How does God help?

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(scheduling your visit is recommended)

Church website: <https://amherstpreshurch.com>

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