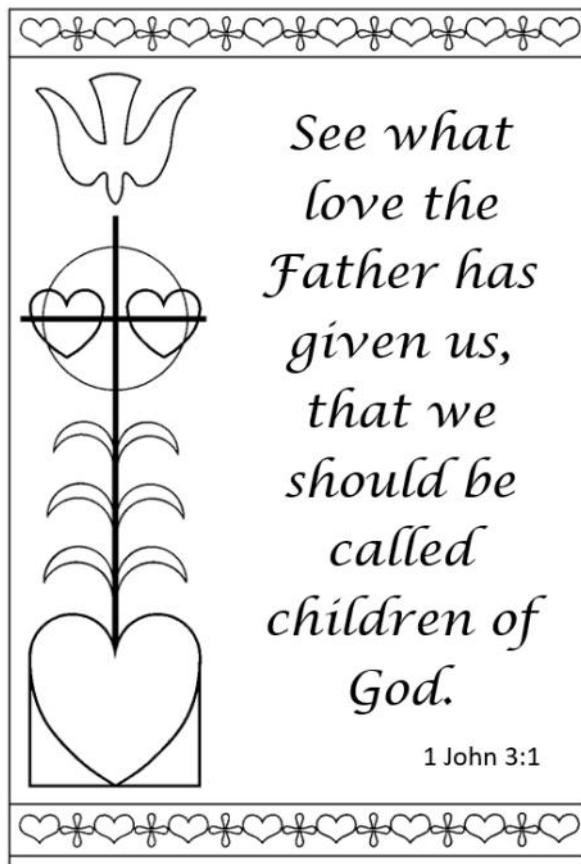


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



3rd Sunday of Easter

April 14, 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: Jesus Lover of My Soul

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* **INTROIT:** I Love You, Lord # 627 (purple) - sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: God has set apart those who are faithful.
Our Creator will hear us when we call.

**People: God puts gladness in our hearts and minds.
We will lie down in safety and sleep in peace.**

Liturgist: Beloved, we are God's children now.
What we will be has not yet been revealed.

**People: We are here to remember Jesus Christ.
We want to be like the One who lived by love.**

Liturgist: Our faith strengthens us for each day's living.
God empowers our ministries of caring.

**People: We trust God whose children we are.
We look forward to what God will reveal to us.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

We are disturbed and distressed, O God, by the evil that surrounds us. It is hard to view many people we see as your children: murderers, abusers, those who cheat others and profit at their expense. We feel like victims. Why should we confess our sins when there is so much evil beyond our influence? Yet we know we do not abide in your love. We sin by turning away from sisters and brothers who are also beloved by you, however they may differ from us. We seek the forgiveness you promise and the health you offer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

Forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to all who repent and seek new life in Christ. The peace of God dwells in us when we honestly examine ourselves, exposing our wounds to Love's healing and our self-deceit to Love's correction. Beloved, we are accepted by God whose will for us is a joyous freedom in Christ Jesus.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* HYMN: The Lily of the Valley # 2062 (*Sing the Faith*)

FIRST READING

Luke 24:36-48

Liturgist

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-7

Pastor

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Pure Love”

Pastor

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

* **HYMN:** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling # 366 (purple)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(in unison)

Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

With gladness in our hearts, we offer our best to God in this act of commitment and sacrifice. We give because repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in the name of Jesus Christ to all nations, beginning where we are. Let us give according to our faith.

OFFERTORY: The Love of God Lehman

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

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

(in unison)

We give with joy, gracious God, for you have been with us even when we were unfaithful. You have kept us in safety through times of grave distress. We can call on you in all times and places, in life and in death, knowing that your strength is available to sustain us. We give now that your church may be empowered in the proclamation of good news and the transformation of human life. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: Put your trust in God as you face another week.
God affirms you and claims your faithfulness.

People: **We will open our eyes to the goodness of God.**
 We seek to follow faithfully where Christ leads.

Pastor: Turn away from vain words and seeking after lies.
Seek the purity of life we find in Christ Jesus.

(continued on next page)

People: **We pray for honest insight as we seek truth.
O that we might see the good in ourselves!**

Pastor: We have been touched by mystery and wonder.
Let us live as God's beloved children.

People: **What we will become has not yet been revealed.
We are confident in God's will for us.**

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: Toccatà Frescobaldi

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 — April 14, 2024

- Special envelopes and flyers are available in the Narthex until May 19th 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, April 21***

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service

Devotion of the Week

Let us read ***Luke 24:36-48*** and ***1 John 3:1-7***.

Questions for your meditation:

What doubts or questions trouble our congregation? How could you/we name these in a way that provides comfort and creates community?

What signs of resurrection do you see happening in our congregation or community? Where do you see new life being offered, forgiveness extended or peace cultivated?

What does it look like to hold joy and doubt in productive tension with one another? How can we help each other respond to Christ's call while also creating space for questions?

Amherst Presbyterian Church

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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: <https://amherstpreshurch.com>

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