

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.



***What does your baptism  
mean to you?***



***Baptism of the Lord***

**January 8, 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:**    Some Children See Him    by Burt

**OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Liturgist*

**\* INTROIT:**    We Three Kings of Orient Are    # 66 (*verses 1 and 5*)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist:    A voice of power and majesty calls out to us:  
I am your God; I have called you in righteousness.

**People:**                **We are amazed that God knows us and calls us.**  
                              **By God's breath and spirit, we receive life.**

Liturgist:    God takes us by the hand and leads us.  
In covenant with God, we extend light to the world.

**People:**                **Eyes are opened and prisoners are freed.**  
                              **Justice and peace prevail, by God's strength.**

Liturgist:    Worship with joy and give glory to God's name.  
Listen for the new thing God declares.

**People:**                **We remember that we have been baptized.**  
                              **May we live as those with whom God is pleased.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

God of glory, we confess that our lives have not glorified you. God of justice, we admit our complicity with systems of injustice. God of light, we are aware of the shadows we create that keep others from seeing you. All-inclusive God, we repent of our narrow vision and our tendency to exclude. Purge us of the idols that keep us from full commitment to the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*(in unison)*

The prophets testify that all who believe in God's messenger receive forgiveness of sin through his name. We believe that Jesus is that beloved messenger, with whom God is well pleased. Through this One on whom God's spirit was poured out, like a descending dove, we know ourselves to be beloved by God, forgiven and freed from the bonds of sin.

## **PASSING OF PEACE**

*Pastor*

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

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

**\* HYMN:** When Jesus Came to Jordan # 72

## **FIRST READING**

Matthew 3:13-17

*Liturgist*

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

<sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

## **SECOND READING**

Isaiah 42:1-9

*Pastor*

<sup>1</sup> Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

<sup>2</sup> He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;

<sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

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- <sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- <sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:
- <sup>6</sup> I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,
- <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
- <sup>8</sup> I am the Lord, that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.
- <sup>9</sup> See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**                    **“What does your baptism mean to you?”**

*Pastor*

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

\* **HYMN:**            Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne    # 2100 (*Sing the Faith*) (verses 1,2,4,5)

**STATEMENT OF FAITH**                    (from The Book of Common Worship)

Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. In

*(continued on next page)*

embracing that covenant, we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

Liturgist: O Christ, by your epiphany your light shines upon us, giving us the fullness of salvation. Help us show your light to all we meet today.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Liturgist: O Christ of glory, you humbled yourself to be baptized, showing us the way of humility. Strengthen us to serve you in humility all the days of our life.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Liturgist: O Christ, by your baptism you cleansed us from our sin, making us children of your Father. Give the grace of being a child of God to all who seek you.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Liturgist: O Christ, by your baptism you sanctified creation and opened the door of repentance to all who are baptized. Make us servants of your gospel in the world.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Liturgist: O Christ, by your baptism you revealed to us the glorious Trinity when the voice from heaven proclaimed, "This is my beloved Son," and the Holy Spirit descended upon you like a dove. Renew a heart of worship within all the baptized.

**ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

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

*Pastor*

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

*(in unison)*

## **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

*Liturgist*

How can we share the message that God is impartial, that justice and peace are God's intention for all humankind? We combine our individual efforts through the church, joining in programs, projects, and outreach that reflect God's light into the world. Our gifts of gratitude are one way of sharing.

**OFFERTORY:** Coventry Carol

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

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

We pray, O God, that our offerings delight you. We bring them to encourage all who work for justice and peace on our behalf, that they may not grow faint or be crushed by opposition. May the oppressed find healing, the discouraged receive hope, and those who are bound discover freedom, through and beyond our efforts. Amen.

**\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: The voice of power and majesty has spoken to us.  
God gives strength and blesses us with peace.

**People:** **Though we are bruised reeds, we will not break.**  
**Our dimly burning wicks will not be quenched.**

Pastor: We face another week with renewed strength.  
The light we received will continue to shine.

**People:** **God has healed and forgiven us.**  
**We believe God loves us and is pleased with us.**

Pastor: Let your lives testify to the goodness of God.  
Ascribe to God glory and majesty and power.

**People:** **We are witnesses from the baptized community.**  
**God sends us out to embrace others in Christ's name.**

**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:** Wade in the Water *(Spiritual)*

## APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — January 8, 2023

- The **Deacons** will meet today (1/8) at noon.
- The **Session** will meet tomorrow (1/9) at 7:00 PM, via Zoom.
- Please note that **Rachael Circle** has been cancelled for Tuesday, January 10. The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, February 14.
- APC's **Bible Study** will meet on Sunday, January 15 at 9:30 AM.
- Please mark your calendars and plan to attend APC's **Annual Congregational Meeting** on **Sunday, January 29**, after worship. We also request that all church leaders please submit their final 2022 reports to the church office by January 16.

Next week — ***Sunday, January 15***

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service

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

Let us read ***Matthew 3:13-17*** and ***Isaiah 42:1-9***.

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

Reflecting on the meaning of Epiphany as a church season, how have you experienced Christ recently?

Acknowledging how God uses people for good, what is one time you felt one person make a positive difference?

### **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

### **Today's Worship Team**

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

# **Amherst Presbyterian Church**

151 S. Youngs Road

Williamsville, NY 14221



## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Office Phone:** 716-633-4656 / **Email:** AmherstPC@verizon.net

**Office hours:** 9:00am—1:00pm, Monday, Wednesday, Friday

**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