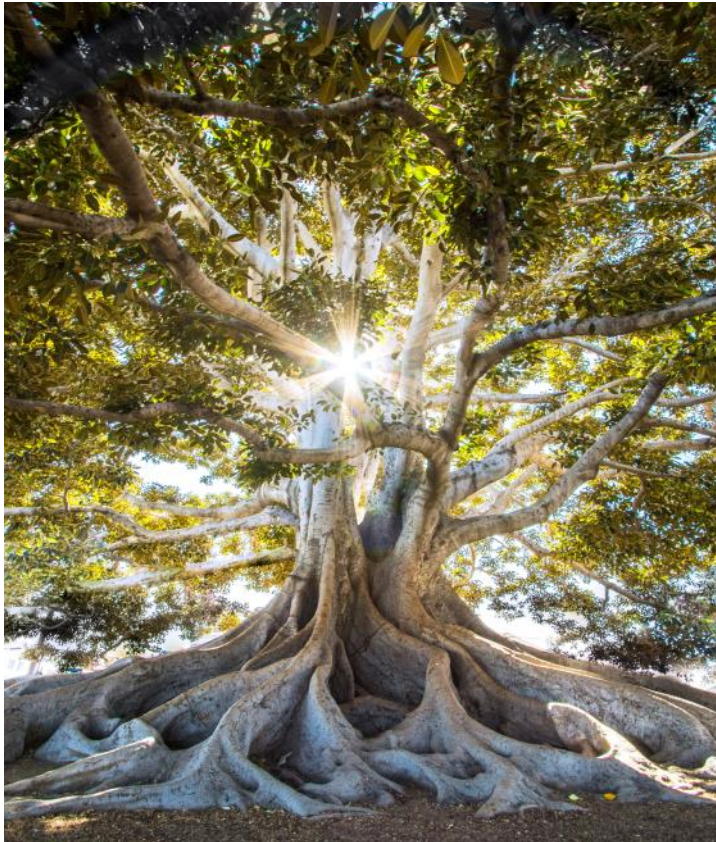


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 13, 2022 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: Preludio in G by Eccles

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* INTROIT: O How He Loves You and Me # 2108 (*Sing the Faith*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Blessed are those who trust in God,
who delight to meditate on God's law.

**People: We long to hear the Word of God
and let the Word shape our lives.**

Liturgist: Blessed are all who seek the realm of God,
who hunger to find meaning in their lives.

**People: We intend to give our best to our Creator,
bearing fruit in all we say and do.**

Liturgist: Blessed are the ones who serve God with joy,
who risk all they have in faithfulness and hope.

**People: We come now to worship and find new life,
to receive healing and empowerment for our journey.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Sovereign God, we confess that we have chased after wealth and temporal security while neglecting matters of the spirit. We put our trust in things and in sinners' empty promises. We even deceive ourselves, shaping our words and actions to please the crowd. We have doubted the resurrection, surrendering to a sense of futility and skepticism. Turn us around, God, so we can learn to trust you and find strength in giving of ourselves. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

The healing Jesus offered to disciples long ago is available to us. They were freed to love with generous abandon; so are we. They learned to care for others without first measuring the benefits to themselves; so have we. They were led to the mountain top to commune with God; so are we. They found hope and new life in Christ; this also is God's gift to us.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* HYMN: The One Is Blest (Psalm 1) # 158

FIRST READING

Psalm 1

Liturgist

¹ Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
² but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Pastor

⁵ Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—

who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**“Strong Roots”***Pastor*

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

* **HYMN:** Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee # 310

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(in unison)

The Westminster Confession of Faith (6.187 - 6.188)

God in infinite and perfect love, having provided in the covenant of grace, through the mediation and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, a way of life and salvation, sufficient for and adapted to the whole lost race of humankind, does freely offer this salvation to all people in the gospel.

In the gospel God declares his love for the world and his desire that all people should be saved; reveals fully and clearly the only way of salvation; promises eternal life to all who truly repent and believe in Christ; invites and commands all to embrace the offered mercy; and by his Spirit accompanying the Word pleads with people to accept his gracious invitation.

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

(in unison)

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

Quenched by living water, we are privileged to bear fruit. Contributing our material riches, we discover unanticipated spiritual rewards. The blessings we share are multiplied in the service of God. Let us give with joy.

OFFERTORY: Love Was When by Wyrzten

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

* **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

Thank you, God, for the consolation you offer, the hunger you satisfy, and the healing you produce in those who respond to your love. You have touched our lives in ways that make us rich. Now use what we have shared to provide fulfillment in others' lives, among our neighbors, near and far. Enlist our best efforts in the extension of your realm, that our offering of ourselves may bear fruit daily. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: Go forth into a parched and needy world
to share the water of life with others.

**People: We go out with renewed faith and hope in Christ,
for resurrection is a living possibility for us.**

Pastor: Turn to God each day to delight in the Word
and meditate on God's law.

**People: We will trust God to provide all we really need.
We seek to bear fruit in all we say and do.**

Pastor: Be assured that the realm of God is ours.
God knows us, loves us, blesses us in Christ.

**People: Christ is the first fruits of those who have died.
We shall rise with Christ to new life.**

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: Allegro by Vivaldi

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:	The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous
Music Director:	Donna Lorenzo
Liturgist:	Leslie Palermo
Usher:	Roberta Jones

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Our friends and family in care facilities and at home, including:
Doreen Connolly, Joan Hambleton, John Kelley Jr., Betty Knowl, Lois McMillan,
Mel Palmer (in palliative care at Brothers of Mercy), Gail Trankle

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — February 13, 2022

- We welcome everyone to our Worship Service and want to assure that you feel comfortable and safe while you are inside the building. Even though state and county mask mandates have been lifted, the risk of contracting COVID is still very prevalent. Therefore, **safety protocols** have been established to protect those individuals who are most vulnerable or have not yet been fully vaccinated. These updated policies are listed on the back of your bulletin.
- **Today** is the last day to bring in **Toys & Games** for local Afghan children. Thank you to Mary-Diana for coordinating this toy drive with Journey's End.
- A **membership class** will soon be offered for those interested in joining our church. Please contact Pastor Amir to participate in this class.
- The next **Session** meeting will be on **Monday, February 14**, via **Zoom**, at **7:00 PM**.

Next week — **Sunday, February 20** — Worship Service at **10:30 AM**

Devotion of the Week

Let us re-read **Jeremiah 17:5-10**.

Questions for your meditation:

In what ways are you parched for nourishment?

What practices nourish and strengthen you during difficult times?

Face masks must be worn at all times while moving around the sanctuary and building. Please see exceptions below. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you. Medical masks are located on the table in the Narthex.

- ◇ While seated in the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall, you are welcome to remove your mask ***if you are seated with persons who are also fully vaccinated.***
- ◇ If you wish to sing aloud, we encourage you to wear a face mask ***even if you are fully vaccinated.***
- ◇ ***If you are not fully vaccinated,*** you are encouraged to keep your face mask on and maintain proper social distancing at all times while inside the building.
- ◇ Hand sanitizer can be found at the entrance of the church and at various locations throughout the building.
- ◇ If you haven't done so already, please sign the attendance sheet in the Narthex.

~ The Session of Amherst Presbyterian Church



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://amherstpreschurch.com>

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