

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.



Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.

*Mark 1:9-10*

## ***Baptism of the Lord***

**January 7, 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:** Another Year is Dawning      Havergal

**OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Liturgist*

**\* INTROIT:** We Three Kings of Orient Are    # 151 (purple) - verses 1 & 5

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: The powerful voice of God created all worlds.  
That same voice calls us to worship.

**People:                    Ascribe to our God glory and strength.  
                                  Come before God's glorious majesty.**

Liturgist: God's strength shakes the wilderness.  
That same strength is offered to people of faith.

**People:                    The flames of God penetrate our cold hearts.  
                                  May God bless all people with true peace.**

Liturgist: Come together to remember your baptism.  
Gather to celebrate the Spirit's gifts.

**People:                    The heavens open to us at the Word of God.  
                                  Surely God forgives and makes whole.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

Creator God, you have created us, but we have chosen to go our own way.  
You have reclaimed us, but we have, by our arrogant attitudes and actions, re-  
jected the claim. You have sent your Holy Spirit to break into our controlled and  
unimaginative routines, and we have not appreciated that burst of creative ener-  
gy. We are ready now, ready to admit that our ways are full of dangerous by-  
ways. Our mistakes and failures have often come because, in our false pride,  
we have not listened to you. Save us again by your forgiving love. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*(in unison)*

A voice from heaven said to Jesus, “You are my own Child, the Beloved; with you I am well-pleased.” Jesus Christ passed on that gift to those who dared to follow. We, too, are beloved children of God, loved, forgiven, and sent on a mission. All who are truly sorry for their sin are relieved of its burden and are recreated in God’s image. Celebrate God’s strength and glory!

## **PASSING OF PEACE**

*Pastor*

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

**People:** “....and also with you.”

\* **HYMN:** Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne # 2100 (*Sing the Faith*)

## **FIRST READING**

Genesis 1:1-5

*Liturgist*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup> the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup> Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

## **SECOND READING**

Mark 1:4-11

*Pastor*

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John

*(continued on next page)*

in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** "Baptism of the Lord" *Pastor*

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

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE** *Follow Insert*

**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, dead, 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 quick 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,

*(continued on next page)*

but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## OFFERTORY INVITATION

*Liturgist*

In thanksgiving for all we have received, we enlist in the ministry Christ demonstrated and inspired. We have nothing apart from God's gifts. We have everything when we allow God's Spirit to work through us. This offering demonstrates the depth of our awareness.

**OFFERTORY:** His Eye Is on the Sparrow Martin/Gabriel

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

## \* OFFERTORY PRAYER

*(in unison)*

Mighty God, you have given us everything we have. You have granted us life. You have poured out abiding love on our behalf. You have made us rich. We share out of this awareness, and because we care about people who do not know you, people who have not shared your abundance, people who have defied your commandments, people who need your love. Bless our gifts to do the work you intend. Amen.

## \* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: God gives strength to those who will receive it.  
God will bless the people with peace.

**People: We need the strength God will provide.  
We accept peace as God's generous gift.**

Pastor: Listen to the majesty of God's voice, calling you!  
Glorify God's name in your work and worship.

**People: We have been baptized in the name of Jesus.  
The triune God has blessed and empowered us.**

Pastor: Then go out as a new creation in Christ.

*(continued on next page)*

Let others see how God is changing you.

**People:**                   **We are unworthy servants of the Most High.  
Yet we are ready to do what God expects.**

**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:**           Medley of Praise       Arr.

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:               The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous  
Music Director:        Dr. Donna Lorenzo  
Liturgist:               Tom Potts  
Vocalists:               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 — January 7, 2024

- The Deacons will meet in Fellowship Hall today at noon.
- The Session will meet via Zoom on Monday, January 8 at 7:00 PM.

Next week — ***Sunday, January 14*** — Worship Service at 10:30 AM

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

Let us read ***Genesis 1:1-5*** and ***Mark 1:4-11***.

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

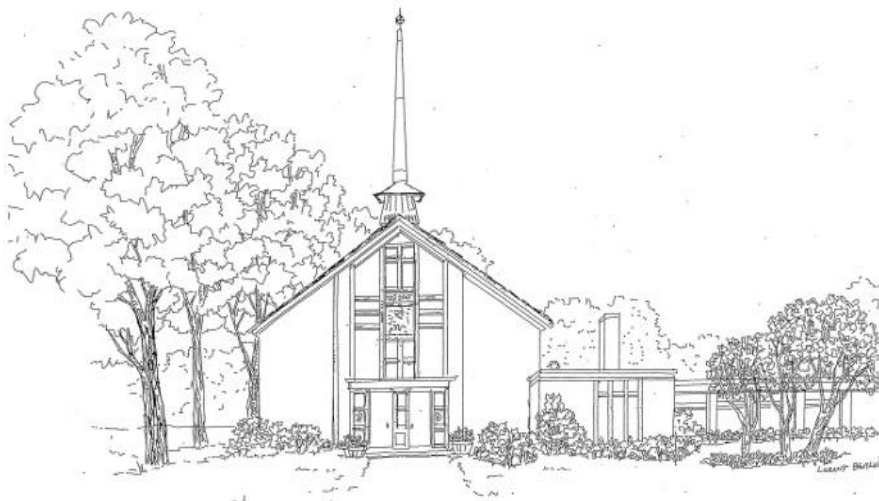
How do these readings challenge us to live into our baptismal identities?

Why do you suppose John's baptism was so popular? Despite the rapidly growing number of unchurched and "de-churched" individuals in the United States, are there palpable spiritual yearnings that many share today?

# Amherst Presbyterian Church

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**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