

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.



7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 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: Simple Gifts Shaker Melody

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* **INTROIT:** Lead Me, Guide Me # 2214 (*Sing the Faith*) - sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Great is our God and greatly to be praised.
Worship the One whose grace covers all our needs.

People: **The God of hosts is with us here.**
We praise, with joy, God's holy name.

Liturgist: Ponder God's steadfast love in the temple.
Practice sharing that love while we are together.

People: **God's love is amazing, beyond our understanding.**
We seek to share the love we are receiving.

Liturgist: We are here to be equipped for the journey of life.
We have gathered that our daily witness might be empowered.

People: **Sometimes we are not strong enough to love.**
We pray that God will use our weakness for good.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

When we ponder the vast universe at your command, O God, we are astounded. We are nothing, except that you have given us life. How often we have squandered that gift in meaningless pursuits, killing time we might have invested in honoring you! Instead we have belittled your prophets and made light of your commands. We alternate between boasting over our personal accomplishments and near-panic at our inability to cope with life's challenges. O God, we confess our desperate need for healing, forgiveness and a new perspective on life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

Rejoice in the judgments of God that are ever tempered with mercy. God understands our weaknesses and is acquainted with our needs. The grace of God is sufficient to cover our sin, for power is made perfect in weakness. When we recognize our weakness, God can strengthen us. When we accept the reign of love among us, we are empowered to be the church, reaching out to a sick and troubled world. Amen.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing # 475 (purple)

FIRST READING

Psalm 123

Liturgist

- ¹ To you I lift up my eyes,
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!
- ² As the eyes of servants
look to the hand of their master,
as the eyes of a maid
to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he has mercy upon us.
- ³ Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
for we have had more than enough of contempt.
- ⁴ Our soul has had more than its fill
of the scorn of those who are at ease,
of the contempt of the proud.

ANTHEM: O God You Searched Me Farrell

*APC Singers
Linda Stotsky, Flute*

SECOND READING

Mark 6:1-13

Pastor

- ¹ He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.

(continued on next page)

² On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands!" ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴ Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." ⁵ And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶ And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹ but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰ He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹ If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³ They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Called to Be Faithful"

Pastor

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Follow Insert

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(in unison)

Adapted from *Belonging to God: A First Catechism*

We believe when Jesus spoke, he spoke with God's authority. When Jesus acted, he acted with God's power. Jesus amazed people with his deeds of power, but he was also gentle and loving. Even now, he cares for us in all our needs

(continued on next page)

as a shepherd cares for sheep. Jesus also called his disciples to follow him. Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick, blessed children, befriended outcasts, required people to repent, and forgave their sins. He taught people not to fear, but to always trust in God. He preached the good news of God's love and gave everyone hope for new life. We live our lives in gratitude for the person and work of Jesus Christ. 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

Some take offense when asked to give, but all of us are eager to receive. Jesus Christ turned these priorities around, giving thanks for the generosity of God's covenant with humanity, but finding greatest joy in the opportunity to share. In gratitude and joy, we bring our offerings.

OFFERTORY: Eternal Father Strong to Save Dykes

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

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

Thank you, God, for your steadfast love. We offer our praise; may it reach to the ends of the earth. We ask that our gifts empower ministry in this place and wherever our influence can reach. Let unbelief be turned to faith, ignorance to knowledge, sickness to health, brokenness to wholeness, both in us and in our neighbors near and far. Guide us, as we seek to invest our best for the sake of Christ. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Go out into the world in the name of the carpenter.
Emulate Christ's deeds of compassion and power.

**People: We face hardships and calamities with courage.
Christ strengthens us when we are weak.**

Pastor: In humility, reach out to help and to be helped.
Travel light, with your faith as your major resource.

**People: We will trust God in our preparations and on the journey.
We will give our best, relying also on God's grace.**

Pastor: As disciples of Jesus Christ, you are blessed and empowered.
God's steadfast love surrounds you wherever you go.

**People: Great is our God, and greatly to be praised!
God will be our guide today and forever.**

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: America the Beautiful Ward

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:	The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous
Music Director:	Dr. Donna Lorenzo
Liturgist:	Tom Potts
Vocalists:	The APC Singers
Flautist:	Linda Stotsky

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — July 7, 2024

- The Sewing Group will continue its hiatus through the summer and is hoping to resume in the fall.
- If you would like a copy of the 2024-25 Presbyterian Planning calendar, please request it through the church office (by phone or email) no later than Friday, July 19. These 19-month calendars are full of great PC (USA) information, such as maps, liturgical colors/days, and the lectionary. They are \$11.50 each.
- This year's Summer Serenade will be on Friday, August 2. We'll start the evening with a potluck picnic at 6 pm, followed by music at 7 pm. APC will provide the hot dogs, and you can sign up to bring sides/desserts on the bulletin board across from the nursery (or call/email the church office if you forget while you're here).

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

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

Devotion of the Week

Let us read **Mark 6:1–13**.

Questions for your meditation:

What does evangelism look like in your life?

Remember a time in your life when you doubted your ability to do a task God set before you. How did God meet you in your doubt?

What does faithfulness look like in your setting? How is it different than success?

Amherst Presbyterian Church

151 S. Youngs Road

Williamsville, NY 14221-7023



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