

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.



THEN THE LORD SAID,
“SEE, I AM SETTING A PLUMB LINE...”

Amos 7:8

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 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: Prelude Bach

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* INTROIT: Change My Heart, O God # 2152 (*Sing the Faith*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Blessed be the God and parent of our Savior Jesus Christ!
Thank God for every spiritual blessing.

People: May the glory of God be known in this place!
May God's peace dwell in this and every land!

Liturgist: Who shall ascend the hill to reach for God?
Who shall stand in God's holy place?

People: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts.
Those who are not false or deceitful.

Liturgist: God speaks peace to those who are faithful.
Lift up your heads and your hearts to God.

People: We have come to hear the word of truth.
We turn to God, eager to receive salvation.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

God of all hope and blessing, hear us as we turn to you with all our hearts. We have not been faithful to your word of love. We have hurt others and held grudges. We have been jealous and deceitful and ungrateful. We have turned from your Word and resisted the Holy Spirit. We have wanted our inheritance from you without the responsibilities that go with it. O God, we plead for your forgiveness and healing that we might respond with joy to the spiritual blessings you offer. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

God's grace is freely given to us in Jesus Christ, through whom we are redeemed and forgiven. Let us set our hope on Christ, living each day for the praise of God's glory, ever seeking the truth that frees us to live fully and triumphantly. Join the dance of gratitude and joy, sharing with others the love God has poured into our lives.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim # 299 (purple)

FIRST READING

Psalm 85:8-13

Liturgist

- ⁸ Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
- ⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- ¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
- ¹² The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³ Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps

SECOND READING

Amos 7:7-15

Pastor

⁷ This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ And the Lord said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,
"See, I am setting a plumb line

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in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;
⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.”

¹⁰ Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying,
“Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the
land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said,

‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.’ ”

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn
your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for
it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.”

¹⁴ Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I
am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵ and the Lord took me from
following the flock, and the Lord said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “See, I Am Setting a Plumb-Line” *Pastor*

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

* **HYMN:** Great God of Every Blessing # 694 (purple)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

From a Brief Statement of Faith (verses 21-51)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others

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and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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

The earth belongs to God, and all that is in it. The world is God's creation, and so are we. All that we have is from the gifts of God, meant as a blessing for all to share. In these moments, we recognize our responsibility to manage these resources for the redemption of all God's people. Let us give with care.

OFFERTORY: Bourrée Bach

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

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

With joyous praise and dancing spirits, we dedicate this offering, acknowledging our covenant responsibility to share your word and love with all your people. In gratitude for the gospel of salvation, we pledge our first loyalty and highest faithfulness as disciples of Jesus Christ. Thank you for the wisdom and insight we have received. Help us now to live according to the best we know, in Jesus' name. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: Remember each day that you are chosen by God.
Be open to the spiritual blessings available at all times.

**People: We are cleansed and free, purified and made whole.
Great is our God and greatly to be praised!**

Pastor: Dwell in the mystery of God's will for you.
Dare to reach out in love to those who share your world.

**People: We will seek God's counsel daily.
We will open our hearts to others' pain.**

Pastor: The Holy Spirit goes with you to empower you.
The love of Christ sustains you in all circumstances.

**People: We have been blessed and fed in this place.
We will share with others the joy we have known.**

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: Victory in Jesus Bartlett

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 — July 14, 2024

- Today's flowers are given to celebrate the birthday of Jonathan Tawadrous, with love from mom and dad.
- Our Summer Serenade will be on Friday, August 2nd. We'll begin at 6 PM with a potluck picnic, followed by music at 7 PM. APC will provide hot dogs, and you can sign up to bring sides/desserts on the bulletin board across from the nursery.
- Quarterly statements for 4/1 - 6/30 are available on the table in the Narthex. Please contact the church office with any questions or concerns.
- Due to recent changes on FaceBook, we are no longer able to offer our Sunday live stream directly on that platform. We do still broadcast live on YouTube, and during the week we'll post a link to that recording on our FaceBook page. Please call or email the church office if you have questions or need assistance with any of our online resources.
- This is the last week to let us know if you would like your own copy of the 2024-25 Presbyterian Planning Calendar. They are \$11.50 each, and your order can be placed through the church office.

Next week — ***Sunday, July 21***

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service

Devotion of the Week

Let us read ***Amos 7:7–15***.

Questions for your meditation:

What thoughts, ideas, feelings, or images arose as you read this text?

What stories can you share of people, empowered by God, who boldly do good?

When have you felt empowered by God to act and work for positive change?

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(scheduling your visit is recommended)

Church website: <https://amherstpreshurch.com>

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