



Nativity of the Lord / New Year's Day

January 1, 2023 at 10:30 AM

* We invite you to please stand, as you are able, for items preceded by an asterisk.

PRELUDE: Wexford Carol / What Child is This

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

INTROIT: Joy to the World! # 40 (*verses 1 and 4*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: A Savior has appeared in a Bethlehem manger.
Hurry to receive God's loving-kindness.

People: **Our God has called us a holy people.**
God has gathered us to redeem us.

Liturgist: This is a time for renewal and rebirth.
Dare to embrace the hope of eternal life.

People: **Light is dawning; glory is revealed.**
Rejoice and give thanks to our God.

Liturgist: Let God's healing grace transform you.
Receive the salvation God has promised.

People: **We have come to receive God's gifts.**
We have come to worship and praise our God.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH (see insert)

Potts Family

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

O God, we have been too busy to pray and too proud to kneel. We are skeptics in a skeptical age. Yet, we are drawn to the birth of a child. We are inspired by the song of angels. We are challenged by the responsive faithfulness of shepherds. Have mercy on us and help us to put all our concerns in the new perspective of your constant presence and unfailing care. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

The birth in Bethlehem holds for us the promise of rebirth. The faithful response of the shepherds renews among us the courage to trust and to act on our convictions. Our salvation has come. Our healing is assured. The discordant pieces of our lives are reconciled in a wholeness we are free to accept and enjoy. We are God's holy people, redeemed and not forsaken. Praise God!

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

*** HYMN:** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing # 31

FIRST READING

Luke 2:1-7

Liturgist

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

SECOND READING

Luke 2:8-20

Pastor

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in

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bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Nativity of the Lord”

Pastor

Who are the people looking for room in our community?

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

* **HYMN:** I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (*insert*)

THE SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST

Follow Insert

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(in unison)

The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional)

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.

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

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

All the good things in life that we enjoy, all the relationships that enrich our lives, all the experiences we have been privileged to encounter are tokens of God's greatest gift to us. God has entered human flesh. God comes to us, offering life in all its fullness. Our offerings are one way to accept these gifts with great thanksgiving.

OFFERTORY: Some Children See Him by Burt

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

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

Gracious God, your claims on us fill us with awe. You have not abandoned us when we forgot you or turned away as we denied you. Instead, you call us once more to be a holy people, heirs of hope, conveyors of good news. As we return to you some of the riches you have entrusted to us, let our offerings be a down payment on our recommitment of life itself to carrying out the mission to which you call us. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Carry with you the quiet joy ignited in your hearts.
You are a part of God's gift to the world.

**People: Our hearts have been cleansed at the manger.
We want to respond with faithfulness.**

Pastor: Return again and again to Bethlehem.
Take time to remember and rejoice in our salvation.

**People: We cannot be silent, for we have received God's gift.
We cannot rest until everyone hears the good news.**

Pastor: The goodness and loving-kindness of God go with us.
God's mercy renews us day by day.

**People: Glory to God in the highest heaven.
Peace on earth for all whom God favors.**

ALL: Amen.

*** HYMN:** Go, Tell It on the Mountain # 29

POSTLUDE: For Unto Us a Child is Born by Handel

Today's Worship Team

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

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 — December 25, 2022

Merry Christmas!



- The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2 in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day.
- APC's Bible Study will continue into the new year, with the January meetings being on 1/1 and 1/15 at 9:30 AM. Please contact the church office to receive the class materials (extra copies are also available at each class). All are welcome.
- Also on the January 2023 calendar are the following:
 - ◇ Fri. 1/6 - Sewing Group at 10am
 - ◇ Sun. 1/8 - Deacons' Meeting at noon
 - ◇ Mon. 1/9 - Session Meeting at 7pm
 - ◇ Tues. 1/10 - Rachael Circle at noon
 - ◇ Fri. 1/20 - Sewing Group at 10am

Next week — ***Sunday, January 1, 2023*** — Happy New Year!

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service

Devotion of the Week

Let us read ***Luke 2:1-20***.

Questions for your meditation:

What images or ideas arise as you read this text? Who are the people looking for room in our community? What do you have enough of this Christmas to share?

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.

AMHERST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Presbyterian Church in the USA
All Are Welcome



CONTACT INFORMATION

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(scheduling your visit is recommended)

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

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