

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.



March 24, 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: The Palms Faure

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** All Hail King Jesus # 2069 (*Sing the Faith*) - sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Blessed are those who delight in worship.

Blessed are the ones who come in God's name.

**People: Give thanks to God, all who assemble here.
God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Liturgist: Let all who follow Christ sing God's praise.

Because of God's help, we are not disgraced.

**People: Open the gates of righteousness that we might enter.
The works of God are marvelous in our eyes.**

Liturgist: This is the day that our God has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**People: Hosanna! Let every knee bend before Jesus!
Let every tongue welcome Christ's reign! Hosanna!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Sovereign God, we confess that we are as fickle as the crowds in Jerusalem. When everything seems to be going well, we join the hosanna chorus, but in times of weariness or rebellion, praise can turn to insult. We hide our faith when it is under attack and link ourselves with the scoffers. When there is opportunity to speak a good word for Jesus Christ, we are silent. Our church lifts an uncertain word before the world, for we, its members, have not been faithful. We need your forgiving love today, O God, more than ever. Hear our prayer!
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

God answers us and offers salvation. In the mystery of God, One came among us, fully human yet fully divine, to lead us to the throne of grace. Though in the form of God, Jesus emptied himself, taking a slave's role in humble service to humanity. This was for our sakes, that we might bend our knees before God in humility and trust. We are saved in God's steadfast love!

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna # 197 (purple)
All Glory, Laud, and Honor # 196 (purple) - Verses 1, 3, and 4

FIRST READING

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgist

(please turn to page 565 of the Old Testament in your pew Bible)

ANTHEM: Sing Hosanna! Beckenhorst

APC Singers

SECOND READING

John 12:2-16

Pastor

² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

⁹ When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the

(continued on next page)

dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, ¹¹ since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

¹² The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!”

¹⁴ Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey's colt!”

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

**Now or Later?
Palm Sunday**

Pastor

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Follow Insert

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(in unison)

From The Book of Common Worship

"This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the liv-

(continued on next page)

ing God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen."

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

(in unison)

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

What shall we give in the name of One who gave everything for us? What do we offer in thanksgiving for the steadfast love proclaimed in Jesus Christ? How will good news be carried to the centers of power in our world today? What we give will make a difference.

OFFERTORY: There is a Redeemer Green *Leslie Palermo*

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

* OFFERTORY PRAYER *(in unison)*

What you have done for us is marvelous in our eyes, gracious God. Our gifts can never match your goodness toward us. Your saving grace, your healing light, your personal sacrifice are so far beyond our imagining! We can only offer ourselves, all we have and all we are, in response to the coming of Christ Jesus. Hosanna in the highest! Receive, O God, our humble service. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: God has given us light.
We are sent into the world to share that light.

People: **This is God's doing; marvelous in our eyes.
We will carry the light of Christ to the world.**

Pastor: God has offered us the keystone of life.
We are called to build lives where God can dwell.

People: **We offer ourselves as homes for God's spirit.
We will make room for God's rule within us.**

(continued on next page)

Pastor: Give thanks for God's reign among us.
Praise God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

People: **Hosanna in the highest heaven!**
We trust in God and seek to serve in Christ's name.

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: March to Calvary Maunder

Today's Worship Team

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

Devotion of the Week

Let us read **John 12:2-16**.

Questions for your meditation:

What do we do when life does not go the way we think it is supposed to go?
What happens when we shout, "Hosanna! Save us now!" and the response we hear is, "Not yet, not now, wait a little longer."?

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 — March 24, 2024

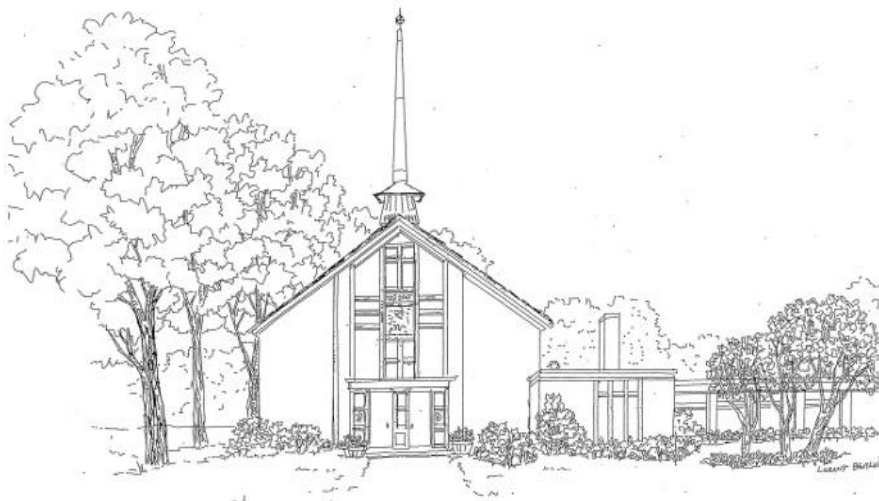
- Holy Week Schedule:
 - ◇ 3/28 at 7:30 PM - Maundy Thursday service at Clarence PC
 - ◇ 3/29 at Noon - Good Friday service at North PC
 - ◇ 3/31 at 10:30 AM - Easter Sunday service at Amherst PC
- There are only a few days left to our Lenten Challenge, where we're asking each member to invite a guest to our Easter Sunday service. Invitation letters are available through the church office until 3/27, as the office will be closed on 3/29 for Good Friday.
- We are celebrating the Gifts of Women throughout this month and have placed a celebration board in the Narthex that will remain there until the end of March. We only have a few photos and names on it so far to honor the ladies of APC, so feel free to add your own photos and names to fill the board.
- APC has a new YouTube channel where you can view our Sunday services and special videos that Pastor Amir creates for us. Be sure to subscribe at **[youtube.com/@AmherstPresbyterianChurch](https://www.youtube.com/@AmherstPresbyterianChurch)**
Also, if you experience any problems using our website, FaceBook page, or YouTube channel, please contact the church office so our administrative assistant, Jeanette, can help you find a solution
- Every week this month we're having "Undies Sundays" to collect new undergarments for Friends of the Night People, an organization that provides basic necessities to those experiencing hunger, poverty and homelessness in Buffalo, NY. See one of our Deacons, our newsletter, or the sign on the basket in the Narthex for details about sizes and styles of socks and underwear most needed.
- Special envelopes and flyers are available in the Narthex throughout the month of March for the PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing. Your gifts help support critical programs including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People program.

Next week — **Sunday, March 31** — Easter Sunday
10:30 AM - Worship Service

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