

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.



Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 30, 2023 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 Aveu Thome

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** Holy God, We Praise Your Name # 4 (*verses 1 and 4*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Let us call on our God and give thanks.
Let hearts rejoice as we sing God's praise.

**People: Glory be to God in whose covenant we find life.
Let all the people tell of God's wonderful works.**

Liturgist: Let us open ourselves continually to God's presence.
Let us seek the strength that God alone provides.

**People: Surely the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
The Spirit searches our hearts and enlarges our prayers.**

Liturgist: Who can separate us from the love of God?
Will hardship, distress, or peril overcome us?

**People: Nothing can separate us from God's love.
We can face all things, knowing God's care.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

You know us, God, better than we know ourselves. You know the ways we scheme and manipulate for our own advantage. You are aware of how often our deeds fail to match the faith we claim. Help us to face ourselves with honesty. Give us the will and courage to change our ways. We give thanks for Christ's intercession for us. We rejoice as the Spirit gives voice to all we cannot express. Save us, O God, that our lives might give expression to your reign. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

Praise our God who forgives and restores. Give thanks for the inheritance that is ours in Christ Jesus. We have received a pearl of great value, a treasure undeserved, a pardon unmerited. Nothing can separate us from the love of God—not death or life, not angels or rulers, not things present or things to come, not heights or depths; no earthly power or anything in all creation can take away God’s abiding concern and care for each one of us. Praise God!

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

People: “....and also with you.”

* **HYMN:** I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord # 310

FIRST READING

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46

Liturgist

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;

⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

SECOND READING

Matthew 13:47-52

Pastor

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and

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put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.”⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Ordinary but Extraordinary”

Pastor

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

* **HYMN:** Seek Ye First # 175

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Confession of Belhar

(in unison)

We believe:

- ◆ that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ;
- ◆ that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells;
- ◆ that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit has conquered the powers of sin and death, and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred, bitterness and enmity, that God’s life-giving Word and Spirit will enable the church to live in a new obedience which can open new possibilities of life for society and the world.

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

We gather an offering, not so much to support an institution as to follow our passion to share the good news of the realm of God with one another and with many who have never heard it. Amid an atmosphere of deceit and distrust in the world, where community is so seldom realized in our day, we aspire to discover and live God's will for us. Let us give generously.

OFFERTORY: Meditation O'Donnell

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

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

The gift of your realm is precious to us, O God. It is worth our greatest efforts and our caring sacrifice. As we search for the best in life, we also want to share our faith discoveries with friends and neighbors. We do that personally and with our giving. May our outreach proclaim to all that nothing can separate us from your love. We give you thanks that you have entrusted to us all that we are privileged to share. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: God remembers the covenant made with humanity.
 May we remember our part of that covenant.

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People: **We will praise our God wherever we go.**
 We will tell of God's wonderful works.

Pastor: God brings good from the worst of circumstances.
 Those who trust God live with confidence.

People: **We believe nothing can separate us from God's love.**
 In Christ, we are assured of God's care.

Pastor: We are invited to make God's realm our first priority.
 Living as God intends is life's greatest fulfillment.

People: **May our mustard-seed faith grow strong.**
 We treasure God's realm in our midst.

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: Vivace Eccles

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 — July 30, 2023

- Today's flowers are from Tom Potts, in loving memory of Michele.
- Next Sunday, on August 6 at 6:30 PM, we will have our Summer Serenade, featuring "Arose for You Puppets," special music with guest artists, and the APC Singers! Please note the time change (now starting at 6:30) and the potluck dinner is being moved to its own separate event at a later date. Please let us know if you're coming: * on the Fellowship bulletin board, * online (see link in newsletter), or by * contacting the church office. Everyone is welcome so bring your family, friends, and neighbors!
- Starting September 3 we will have nursery care and Sunday school available. There will be planned activities for each group. We are looking for volunteers to work in the nursery on a weekly basis. The sign-up sheet is on the nursery door. Please contact Rev. Amir or Lyn Dehn with any questions.

Next week — ***Sunday, August 6***

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship service with Communion

6:30 PM - Summer Serenade

Devotion of the Week

Let us read ***Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.***

Questions for your meditation:

Where do you see the kingdom of heaven in ordinary things?

How do you think the kingdom of heaven uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things?

Amherst Presbyterian Church

151 S. Youngs Road

Williamsville, NY 14221



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