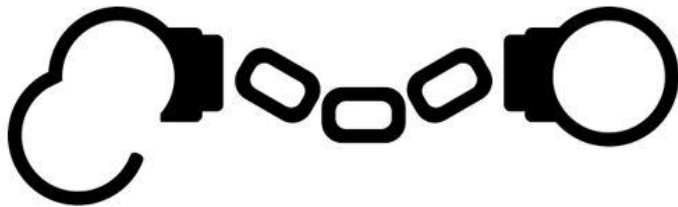
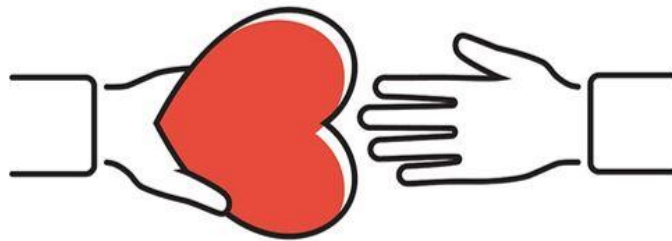


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



Christ has set us free
to serve one another in love.



Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 26, 2022 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: Air by Handel

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** He Is Exalted # 2070 (*Sing the Faith*) - sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Call to mind the mighty acts of God.
Remember the wonders God has revealed in your life.

People: **All the ways of God are holy.**
Nothing in heaven or earth is so great as God.

Liturgist: With a strong arm, God redeems the people.
Day by day, God leads us with a shepherd's care.

People: **Even when the earth trembles, God is with us.**
When lightning flashes, we are confident of God's care.

Liturgist: We have inherited the mission of the prophets.
We need the prophet's mantle from our God.

People: **We have come to be equipped for our tasks.**
We have gathered for renewal of our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

O God, we are so self-centered that we cannot be centered selves. We are so preoccupied with things of little consequence that we cannot appreciate important matters of the heart. We consume other people instead of loving them. We bite and devour while you call us to build relationships and delight in your love. Set us free, O God, from the sin that binds us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

For freedom, Christ has set you free, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. Follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and live from this day forward in the promised realm of God. Amen.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* HYMN: All Creatures of Our God and King # 455

FIRST READING

Luke 9:51-62

Liturgist

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

⁶⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

SECOND READING

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Pastor

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but

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through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Christian Liberation and Fellowship"

Pastor

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

* **HYMN:** Just a Closer Walk with Thee # 2158 (*Sing the Faith*)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(in unison)

The Westminster Confession of Faith (6.109)

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of people which are in anything contrary to his Word, or beside it in matters of faith or worship. So that to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commandments out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience;

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and the requiring an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.

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 way to Jerusalem was costly for Jesus. The way of Christian faithfulness is costly today. It requires nothing less than the full commitment of our lives. Our offering is a symbol of our life in the Spirit, our total commitment to the reign of God.

OFFERTORY: In the Garden by Miles

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

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

Gracious God, we did not know it would cost so much or feel so good to follow Jesus. We are grateful that we have so much to give and so much yet to learn. We dedicate our offerings so that we and our neighbors may be equipped for life in your realm. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Walk by the Spirit, showing the fruit of the Spirit,
giving thanks to God in all circumstances.

(continued on next page)

People: **We will call to mind the many deeds of God.**
 We will meditate on the wonderful works of God.

Pastor: As those who belong to Jesus Christ,
 inherit the realm of God and share it.

People: **God walks with us on our daily journey.**
 God makes a path for us through deep waters.

Pastor: God grants true freedom to those who love,
 who walk in faithfulness all their days.

People: **We accept the prophet's mantle to empower us.**
 We receive the Spirit's gifts to guide us.

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: In Christ Alone by Getty

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:
Doreen Connolly, Joan Hambleton, John Kelley Jr.,
Betty Knowl, Lois McMillan, Gail Trankle

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — June 26, 2022

- Our current safety guidelines can be found on the back of your bulletin.
- The APC Bell Choir will meet today after church. All are invited to play!!! No music reading required!!!
- The church office will be closed on Monday, July 4 for Independence Day.
- On **Sunday, July 10** we will have a **Congregational Meeting** after church. We encourage everyone to attend this meeting to vote on changes to our By-Laws, as a minimum of 25 members is required for quorum. An electronic copy of the By-Laws, including the proposed revisions, will be emailed this coming week. A printed copy can be requested through the church office.
- The Session, Deacons, and Rachael Circle are on summer break and will resume meetings in September.
- The Sewing group meets year-round on the first and third Fridays of the month. Their next meeting will be on Friday, July 1 at 10 AM. Bring a lunch and beverage for the noontime break. The group is open to everyone. See Cheryl Huffaker for additional information.

Next week — **Sunday, July 3** — Worship Service with Communion at **10:30 AM**

Devotion of the Week

Let us re-read **Luke 9:51-62** and **Galatians 5:1, 13-25**.

Questions for your meditation:

What thoughts, feelings, questions or concerns arose as you read these Scripture passages? What does it mean for you to be free in Christ?

Safety guidelines for in-person worship:

- ◇ Masks are optional; use of them is at the discretion of each individual. The masks in the Narthex are available to anyone who needs one.
- ◇ Hand sanitizer can be found at the entrance of the church and at various locations throughout the building.
- ◇ If you haven't done so already, please sign the attendance sheet in the Narthex.



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