

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.



***6th Sunday of Easter***

**May 22, 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 in F by Handel

**OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Liturgist*

**\* INTROIT:** Shine, Jesus, Shine # 2173, verse 1 (*Sing the Faith*)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: Come to this place of prayer; God is calling us.  
Come, all who are burdened; there is healing here.

**People:** **We have come to hear the Word of God.**  
**We have brought with us all that weighs us down.**

Liturgist: Let voices of praise greet the one who calls us.  
Be glad together and sing for joy.

**People:** **Our hearts respond with hope for a new day.**  
**Our voices join in thankful prayers and praise.**

Liturgist: God reigns among us and fills the world with light.  
We are invited to make our home with the living God.

**People:** **May God's ways be known within and among us.**  
**May God guide all nations in ways of peace.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

Almighty God, we have wandered far from your love. We have neglected your Word in the torrent of words that we hear and read every day. Our hearts are troubled amid the conflicts and violence of our world. Sometimes we find it easier to withdraw from everything, to resist change, lest it require more of us. We know you are reaching out to heal us; help us to respond. We know we are surrounded by your love. Let us feel it deep within, that we may reflect that love to all we meet. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*(in unison)*

Jesus invites us to stand, to feel our own strength, to understand our own power, to sense the changes that love is accomplishing within us and among us. The Holy Spirit has come to teach us all that we need in order to be faithful. We are loving servants of God, who claims us and sends us on a journey of peace. Praise God, who has blessed and forgiven us.

## **PASSING OF PEACE**

*Pastor*

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

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

\* **HYMN:**      Fairest Lord Jesus      # 306

## **FIRST READING**

Ezekiel 43:1-5

*Liturgist*

<sup>1</sup> Then he brought me to the gate, the gate facing east. <sup>2</sup> And there, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east; the sound was like the sound of mighty waters; and the earth shone with his glory. <sup>3</sup> The vision I saw was like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and like the vision that I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell upon my face. <sup>4</sup> As the glory of the Lord entered the temple by the gate facing east, <sup>5</sup> the spirit lifted me up, and brought me into the inner court; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

## **SECOND READING**

Revelation 21:9-14, 22:1-5

*Pastor*

<sup>9</sup> Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." <sup>10</sup> And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>11</sup> It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup> It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; <sup>13</sup> on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. <sup>14</sup> And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

*(continued on next page)*

**22** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** **“Heaven: Access Granted!”**

*Pastor*

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

\* **HYMN:** Christ the Victorious # 2208 (*Sing the Faith*)

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The Heidelberg Catechism (4.052, 4.058)

Liturgist: How does Christ's return “to judge the living and the dead” comfort you?

People: **In all distress and persecution, with uplifted head, I confidently await the very judge who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place and removed the whole curse from me. Christ will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but will take me and all his chosen ones to himself into the joy and glory of heaven.**

Liturgist: How does the article concerning “life everlasting” comfort you?

People: **Even as I already now experience in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, so after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forever.**

## 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*

What do we have to give? Only what we have received. The earth has yielded its increase. God has blessed us in more ways than we can count. Let us offer to God more than support of a church. Let us offer ourselves for the healing of the nations.

**OFFERTORY:** He the Pearly Gates Will Open by Blom

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

### **\* OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*(in unison)*

For the hospitality of your good earth, for the people you have given us to love, for the tasks you have called us to do, we give thanks, gracious God. Our offerings are a measure of our faith and an evidence of our gratitude. We dedicate ourselves with our gifts, that your reign of light may be realized in the places where we live and work and far beyond our personal reach. Amen.

### **\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

**Pastor:** Worshipers of God, we are called into the world.

We cannot stay here; God has work for us to do.

**People:** **God invites us to follow where Jesus leads.**

**Our presence is needed in unexpected places.**

*(continued on next page)*

Pastor: If we love God, we will live by God's Word.  
If we have met God here, our lives are being changed.

**People: God's Word of love is finding a home in our hearts.  
God's light is leading us on new ventures of service.**

Pastor: The peace of God goes with you, today and always;  
let not your hearts be troubled or afraid.

**People: God is blessing us every day; praise God!  
We will carry God's saving power to all nations.**

**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: Soon and Very Soon, We Are Going to See the King by Crouch**

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:	The People and Reverend Dr. Ed Kuffel
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 — May 22, 2022**

- Our current safety guidelines can be found on the back of your bulletin.
- Many thanks to Reverend Dr. Ed Kuffel for continuing to lead our worship services throughout the month of May.
- Today's flowers are from Linda Stotsky, in memory of her Dad.
- Every Sunday in May is "Blanket Sunday". Flyers and special envelopes are on the table in the Narthex for Church World Service's blanket ministry.
- Through June 5, we are collecting on behalf of the PCUSA, the Pentecost Offering. With it, we nurture the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults. The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Envelopes and information are available in the Narthex.

Next week — ***Sunday, May 29*** — Worship Service **10:30 AM**

### ***Devotion of the Week***

1. Meditate on the joy it will be to experience God's presence face to face, and to be in the eternal paradise that God's hands have designed. Think about St. John's vision and description of eternity and try to imagine it in your mind's eye.
2. How does St. John's vision of your eternity in Christ make a difference in how you live today?
3. How does St. John's vision of your eternity in Christ cause you to face the chaos that you see around you?
4. What will you say to God in worship today for how He offers you eternity with Him without cost to you, and that Jesus paid the price for you to be with Him forever?

### 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