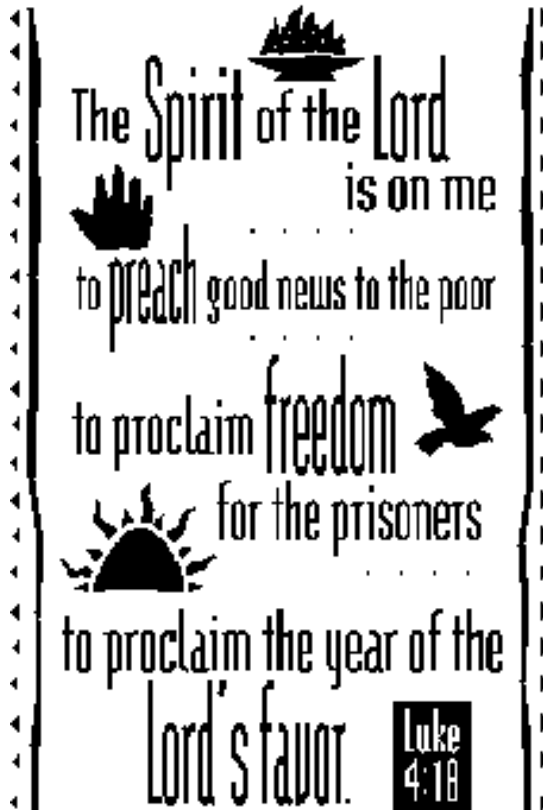


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



***3rd Sunday after Epiphany***

**January 26, 2025 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:** Spirit of God Phelps

**OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Liturgist*

**\* INTROIT:** Where the Spirit of the Lord Is # 2119 (*Sing the Faith*) - Sing Twice

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: Let the ears of all people be attentive;  
the heavens are telling the glory of God.

**People: Everything around us proclaims God's handiwork.  
Let us bow down and worship our Creator.**

Liturgist: Day and night, God is at work among us.  
We are drawn together into one body, the church.

**People: As we commune with God, we know we need one another.  
Let us honor the good to be found in all people.**

Liturgist: Hear once again the laws and commandments.  
Find them sure and right and true for all.

**People: We weep and mourn our lack of faithfulness.  
We seek true community in which all are honored.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

Sometimes, God, we do not know what to confess. We seek to keep your law, but the right course is not always clear. We want to follow your direction, but it is hard to discern what is true. Sometimes it is difficult to care about people whose values are different from ours. How can we be one with those who do not share our beliefs? At times, our own faith is shaken--our faith in ourselves and our faith in you. We need your help, God, so our sins will not have dominion over us. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*(in unison)*

Do not weep or mourn before the law of God. Rather, let the law revive your soul and enlighten your eyes. The Spirit of God is eager to teach, inspire, and strengthen you. Desire to know the purpose of God. Pursue understanding more than riches. God is your Rock and your Redeemer.

## **PASSING OF PEACE**

*Pastor*

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

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

\* **HYMN:** How Firm a Foundation # 463 (purple)

## **FIRST READING**

Psalm 19

*Liturgist*

*(please turn to page 498 of the Old Testament in your pew Bible)*

## **SECOND READING**

Luke 4:14-21

*Pastor*

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The

*(continued on next page)*

eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **SERMON**

### **“The Spirit of the Lord”**

*Pastor*

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

\* **HYMN:** They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love # 2223 (*Sing the Faith*)

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*(in unison)*

From 1 Timothy 3:16

Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great:

Jesus was revealed in flesh,

vindicated in spirit,

seen by angels,

proclaimed among Gentiles,

believed in throughout the world,

taken up in glory.

This is the story of our faith, and it fills us with hope.

Thanks be to God! 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*

We are part of the body of Christ which extends around the world. Together, we form a caring community, united in spite of many differences in appearance, understanding, and function. If others are suffering, we, too, will suffer. When we have the ability to help, it is a joy to do so. May our offerings preach good news, proclaim liberty, and recover among us all the ability to see and hear and respond.

**OFFERTORY:**            Make Me a Channel of Your Peace      Temple

**\* DOXOLOGY:**            Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow   # 606 (purple)

**\* OFFERTORY PRAYER** *(in unison)*

In the spirit of Christ, we give our best for the world. Your rule among us, O God, is more to be desired than riches. Therefore, we share what you have allowed us to use, giving thanks for the joy of helping others and entering into partnership with them. This is only the beginning of our offering, for we dedicate here our varied gifts as apostles, prophets, teachers, healers, helpers, administrators, speakers, workers. In all we do, we will seek to serve you by sharing your love. Amen.

## **\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor:            May the words of our mouths proclaim God's love.  
                      May the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to God.

**People:**            **We go forward as praying, witnessing people.**  
                      **We greet this week with high anticipation.**

Pastor:            The Spirit of God accompanies us on our journey.  
                      We are anointed for the sharing of good news.

**People:**            **Our words and deeds will release captives.**  
                      **What we do and say will change our world.**

Pastor:            The joy of God is our strength.  
                      The law of God revives us and makes us wise.

*(continued on next page)*

**People:** In purity of heart, we seek to serve.  
In quiet confidence, we dare to change and grow.  
**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:** The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve Traditional Folk Tune

Today's Worship Team

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

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Our friends and family in care facilities and at home, including:  
Tom & May Chou, Joan Hambleton, Betty Knowl, Lois McMillan, Gail Trankle

## APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — January 26, 2025

- If you haven't done so already, please pick up your annual giving statement from the table in the narthex.
- Today after the service will be our annual congregational meeting. We encourage everyone to please stay for the meeting so we have a quorum.
- We need volunteers to setup and serve communion next Sunday (Feb. 2). Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the nursery, or contact the church office to have your name added to the list.
- Our next Bible Study will be on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. This class is open to all.
- The Deacons will meet on Sunday, Feb. 2 at noon in Fellowship Hall.

Next week — ***Sunday, February 2, 2025***

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service

12:00 PM - Deacons' Meeting

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

Let us read ***Psalms 19*** and ***Luke 4:14-21***.

### **Questions for your meditation:**

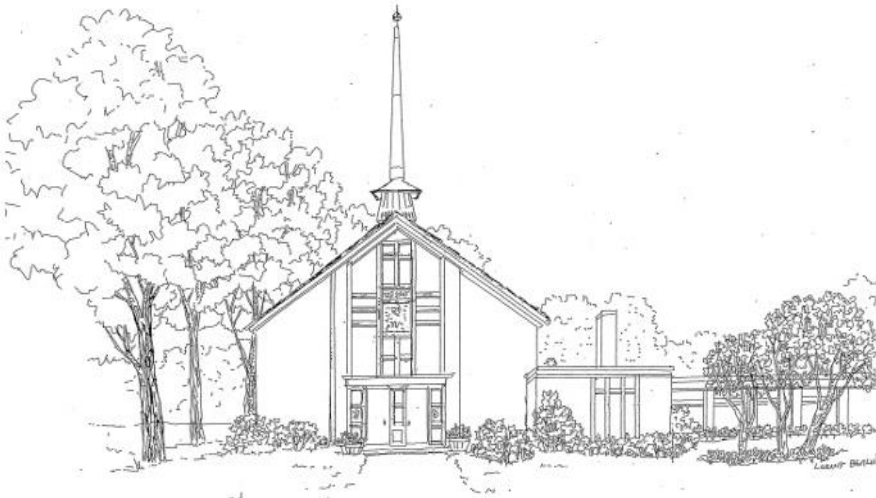
Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming a mission rooted in justice, healing, and liberation, as foretold by the prophet Isaiah. How can this mission shape the understanding of your personal vocation or your church's calling in today's world ?

How does reliance on the Holy Spirit transform the way we pursue justice, proclaim good news, and love our neighbors? How can your church community or personal ministry cultivate deeper dependence on the Spirit in practical ways ?

# **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:** [www.amherstpreshurch.com](http://www.amherstpreshurch.com)

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