

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.



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 1, 2021 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: Symphony 1 Allegro *Boyce*

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

INTROIT: All Creatures of Our God and King # 455, verses 1, 5, 6

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Draw near to God, who has heard your complaining.
Come in the name of Jesus, who understands your need.

**People: We have received manna in the wilderness.
We have been offered the bread of life.**

Liturgist: Open your selves to God's steadfast love.
Be honest before the Holy One who knows all you do.

**People: We are judged according to our deeds.
Our secret sins are known to our God.**

Liturgist: The Holy Spirit has come to restore your joy.
God's presence is real to those who accept God's gift.

**People: Whoever comes to Jesus will not be hungry.
Whoever trusts in Christ will never be thirsty.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

O God, our transgressions are many. We have sinned against you and done evil in your sight. We have wandered far from your truth. You alone know the extent of our guilt. You are justified to pass judgment and sentence us. We are crushed by the wrong we have allowed and the good we have avoided. We plead for mercy. Wash us thoroughly and cleanse us deep within. Put a new and right spirit in us and restore to us the joy of your salvation. Help us to lead lives worthy of your call to us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

By God's grace, we are forgiven. In Christ, we are drawn together and entrusted with gifts for the good of all. We are knit into one body for mutual support, encouragement, and growth. Some of us are apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and some teachers. All of us have a part in building up the body of Christ and equipping the saints for the work of ministry. Give thanks for this opportunity!

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

HYMN: God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us # 261

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 11:26-12:7

Liturgist

²⁶ When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. ²⁷ When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, **12** and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had very many flocks and herds; ³ but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him.

⁴ Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him."

⁵ Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; ⁶ he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

⁷ Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul;

SECOND READING

2 Samuel 12:7-13

Pastor

⁷ Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; ⁸ I gave you your master’s house, and your master’s wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. ⁹ Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. ¹¹ Thus says the Lord: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. ¹² For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.” ¹³ David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Nathan said to David, “Now the Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON*Pastor***“The Unfailing Grace!”**

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE*Follow Insert***STATEMENT OF FAITH**The Confession of 1967 (9.12-9.14) *(in unison)*

The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in human beings as sin in the sight of God. In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and each other, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation.

(continued on next page)

Wise and virtuous people through the ages have sought the highest good in devotion to freedom, justice, peace, truth, and beauty. Yet all human virtue, when seen in the light of God's love in Jesus Christ, is found to be infected by self-interest and hostility. All people, good and bad alike, are in the wrong before God and helpless without his forgiveness. Thus all human beings fall under God's judgment. No one is more subject to that judgment than the person who assumes that he or she is guiltless before God or morally superior to others.

God's love never changes. Against all who oppose him, God expresses his love in wrath. In the same love, God took on himself judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring all people to repentance and new life.

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.

HYMN: God of the Sparrow # 272

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

From the abundance of our land, we have much to share. Yet often we benefit from economic policies that favor us over the poor of the world, whose meager resources put food on our tables and clothes on our backs. The church seeks to bring justice amid the world's inequities.

OFFERTORY SOLO: Adagio *Galuppi*

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

(in unison)

We dedicate our offerings, not alone for the good they can accomplish and the mission they will support, but also because giving helps us to gain perspective on what really matters. We would stop working only for food that perishes, seeking for all the food that endures for eternal life. May our lives and all we give perform the works of God. Build us up in love for one another and for all your children everywhere.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: Christ, the bread of life, sends you out to feed others.
Whoever comes to Christ will not be hungry or thirsty.

**People: We will share our lives with brothers and sisters.
We seek to offer them the bread from heaven.**

Pastor: Join the saints in building up the body of Christ.
Seek to equip others for the work of ministry.

**People: We find unity in our relationship with God.
We seek to grow toward the full stature of Christ.**

Pastor: The Spirit will go with you and dwell with you.
Receive with joy the salvation Christ offers each day.

**People: We are being healed even as we serve.
We are empowered daily as we share love.**

ALL: Amen.

POSTLUDE: Bourrée *Telemann*

Today's Worship Team

Ministers: The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous
Guest Pianist: Jane Cary
Liturgist: Tom Potts
Usher: Roberta Jones

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — August 1, 2021

- Our current safety guidelines can be found on the back of your bulletin.
- We wish to thank everyone who went sailing aboard the Spirit of Buffalo last week-end. It was wonderful to share this time with each other as a church family.
- We extend a warm welcome to Jane Cary this morning, who is filling in for Nancy today.

Next week — ***Sunday, August 8 at 10:30 AM***

In-Person and Online Worship Service

Devotion of the Week

Please re-read **2 Samuel 11:26-12:13**.

Question for your meditation:

What feelings stir within you as you read this passage?

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Our friends and family in care facilities and at home, including:
Doreen Connolly, Joan Hambleton, John Kelley Jr., Betty Knowle,
Lois McMillan, Mel Palmer, Gail Trankle

Please observe the following safety guidelines for in-person worship:

- ◇ The congregation is asked to please follow CDC guidelines for masks, based on their vaccination status and overall health.
- ◇ If you haven't done so already, please sign the attendance sheet in the Narthex



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office hours: 9:00am—1:00pm, 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