

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.



“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

Luke 24:32

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 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: Prelude by Bach

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** This is the Day *(see insert)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: God has called us together for this time of worship.
God is listening to our thoughts and to our speaking.

People: **God inclines an ear to us and hears us.**
God knows us better than we know ourselves.

Liturgist: Let us open our hearts to the One who gives us life.
Let us set our faith and hope in God.

People: **In one another's presence, we renew our vows.**
Together we offer our thanksgiving sacrifice.

Liturgist: God's promises to us are ancient and ever new.
God is with us here and on all the roads we travel.

People: **Together we lift our voices in songs of praise.**
Together we recognize we are precious in God's sight.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

O God, we confess that we rush through our days without recognizing your presence with us. We follow our busy diversions without reference to your will for us. We strive for financial success and personal recognition, while you call for obedience to truth and genuine mutual love. Purify our souls, we pray, and redirect our priorities. May we be born anew through your living and enduring word. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

The promise of forgiveness is for us and for our children, for everyone whom God calls. The gift of the Holy Spirit is ours to receive. Lift up the cup of salvation every day, and call on God's name. Give thanks for the words and deeds of Jesus, who revealed God's love for us and enlists us as disciples and apostles.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

*** HYMN:** Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty # 482

FIRST READING

Luke 24:13-27

Liturgist

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh,

(continued on next page)

how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

SECOND READING

Luke 24:28-35

Pastor

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "What Part of the Emotional Journey Are We On?"

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 (Adapted from the Brief Statement of Faith) (*in unison*)

Liturgist: In life and death we belong to God.

People: **Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one Triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.**

(continued on next page)

Liturgist: We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

People: In sovereign love, God created the world good, acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation, and makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Liturgist: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

People: Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, was crucified, and raised from the dead, delivering us from death to life eternal.

Liturgist: We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

People: The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

Liturgist: In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

People: we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

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

Our offerings are a sacrifice of thanksgiving in the spirit of Jesus, who gave everything, even life itself, to proclaim God's inclusive love. God calls all people to become children of the promise, and to this end we dedicate our gifts.

OFFERTORY: Intermezzo by Mascagni

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

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

Thank you, God, for the privilege of joining with Christ in the proclamation of your love for all people. May the ministries we support serve to unite people across all differences, building up the body of Christ and reaching out to the world with healing energy. Bless these gifts and all who give in any way to make your love known. Amen.

* **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: We have been called away from a corrupt generation.
 We have been ransomed from our futile ways.

People: **Life's meaning is not to be found in silver or gold.**
 We have found new life in trusting God.

Pastor: We have been born anew through God's enduring word.
 We embrace a living faith and hope.

People: **We purify our souls through obedience to truth.**
 We love one another deeply from the heart.

Pastor: Christ is alive in our midst.
 Christ goes with us along all life's roads.

People: **We go out to serve in Christ's name.**
 May the love of Christ find expression in 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: Allegro *(Traditional)*

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — April 23, 2023

- Calling all singers and instrumentalists! We still have a place for you to worship the Lord with your voice and/or your instrument. All you need is a willing heart. This is a great service opportunity for our Lord, our church, and our community. Please see Donna after church today.
- Please join us on May 6th at 9:00 AM for APC's Saturday Breakfast Speaker. This event is free to attend and includes a light breakfast. Our guest speaker, Bob Poczik, will describe the Wonders of the Vatican. If you're available to help with setup or cleanup, please contact either Mary-Diana Pouli or the church office.

Next week — ***Sunday, April 30*** — Worship Service at 10:30 AM

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

Devotion of the Week

Let us read ***Luke 24:13-35***.

Questions for your meditation:

Looking back at your life, when has Christ been present, unrecognized?

Cleopas and his companion go through a variety of emotions in this Scripture — sadness, surprise, disappointment, confusion, compassion, wonder, excitement, hope. As you think about our church/congregation/community, individually or as a whole, what part of the emotional journey are we on?

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