

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.



“I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.”

Matthew 28:5-6

Easter Sunday

April 9, 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: I Know That My Redeemer Liveth/Hymn to Joy by Handel/Beethoven

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* INTROIT: Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! # 104 (verses 1 & 3)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: God promises: someday you will again be my people.
I will be your God and will give you peace.

**People: O God, come today to claim us.
Take away the sting of death.**

Liturgist: God has been patient and kind with us.
We are precious to God, who loves us.

**People: God answers our prayers and offers salvation.
The rejected one has become the chief cornerstone.**

Liturgist: This is the day that God has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**People: We rejoice to know that Christ is alive.
God has chosen us to witness to good news.**

* HYMN: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today # 123

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

God, we have lost our awe of you in the busyness of our days. We have forgotten to look for Christ in the people we meet. We have ignored your mandate to live as Christ in relation to our neighbors. On this day of resurrection, we ask you to raise us up and restore in us a commitment to our risen Savior. May we die to all that is selfish in order that Christ may live in us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

Punishment is meant to correct us, that we might not die but live to recount God's compassionate deeds. God answers our prayers and offers us salvation. In following Christ, we find wholeness and joy. We set our minds on God's gracious intention for us. Give thanks to God, whose steadfast love endures forever. Rejoice that Christ sends us out to tell others that they, too, may know resurrection.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

ANTHEM: In Christ Alone by Getty/Townsend

APC Choir

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34-43

Liturgist

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

SECOND READING

Matthew 28:1-10

Pastor

¹ After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON**"Yet, We Still Celebrate Easter!"***Pastor*

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE*Follow Insert***STATEMENT OF FAITH***(in unison)*

From the Book of Common Worship

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many

(continued on next page)

faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our 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

The message for us, on this day of celebration, is that Jesus goes ahead of us into all the challenges we face. In the midst of every difficulty, Christ meets us with a presence that gives strength and confidence. In that trust, we give ourselves as disciples, learning and serving in Christ's name. Our tithes and offerings, given today, are one part of that service.

OFFERTORY: In the Garden by Miles

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

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

Thank you, God, for accepting us in ways that we had not even accepted ourselves. We want to do what is right and good. Receive our time and effort as well as our money, that your message of peace might be spread throughout our community and nation, and into the whole world. Inspire all of us to seek, above all else, to do your will and accomplish your purposes. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: We have witnessed an earthshaking event.
Christ has been raised! Christ is alive.

**People: We have been raised with Christ to new life.
Our lives have been filled with new meaning.**

Pastor: Gates of righteousness have been opened for us.
Give thanks for the new life we have entered.

**People: God is our strength and our might.
Christ has become our salvation.**

Pastor: Continue to celebrate this first day of Easter.
There are many more to come as we grow in Christ.

**People: God anointed Jesus with spirit and power.
We carry with us new empowerment for living.**

ALL: Amen.

*** HYMN:** He Lives (*see insert*)

POSTLUDE: Because He Lives by Gaither

Today's Worship Team

Ministers: The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous
Music Director: Donna Lorenzo
Liturgist: Tom Potts
Trumpet Player: Jim Price

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

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — April 9, 2023

- Today's flowers are from Sundal Saqib, in celebration of Anaiah Saqib's birthday.
- Included with your bulletin is a Lenten Devotional that encourages us to think about how we relate to and care for the earth.
- Today is the last day for One Great Hour of Sharing.
- The next Session meeting will be on Monday, April 10 at 7:00 PM, via Zoom.
- Please note that our Sewing Group will meet at 10 AM on the 14th and 28th this month. Everyone is welcome; the only prerequisite is a desire to help. Bring a bagged lunch for the afternoon break.
- Mark your calendars... the Rummage Sale this year will be on Saturday, June 10th from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM.

Next week — **Sunday, April 16** — 2nd Sunday of Easter
9:30 AM - Bible Study
10:30 AM - Worship Service

Devotion of the Week

Let us read **Matthew 28:1-10**.

Questions for your meditation:

How do you come to this Easter Sunday? What are you carrying? What are you needing?

What miraculous signs can you identify? Both ordinary and extraordinary?

How is God calling you to “echo” the Word today?

Amherst Presbyterian Church

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(scheduling your visit is recommended)

Church website: <https://amherstpreschurch.com>

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