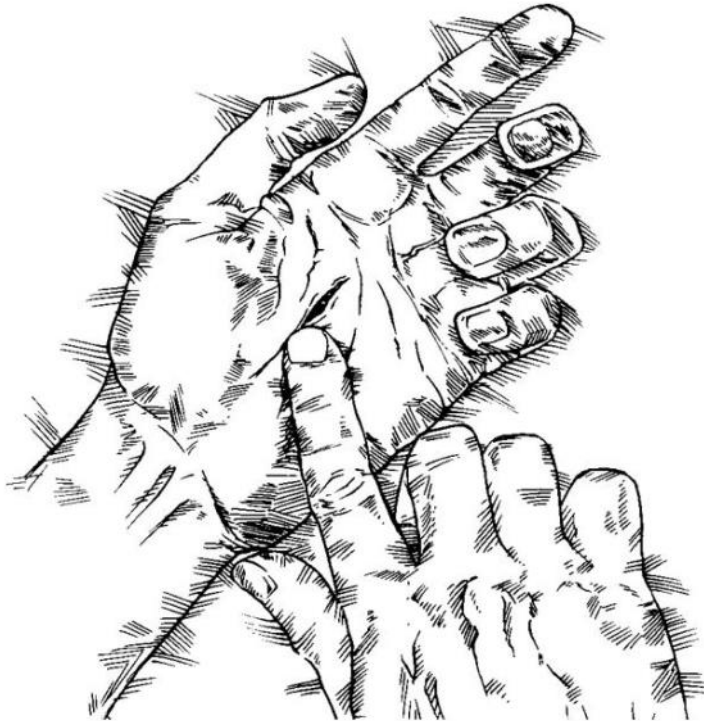


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



“Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

John 20:27

Second Sunday of Easter

April 16, 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: Dona Nobis Pacem (*Traditional*)

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** He Has Made Me Glad # 2270 (*Sing the Faith*) - sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: We come again to celebrate resurrection.
 God gives us new birth into a living hope.

People: **Death has no power over us.**
 Christ goes before us in the new life God offers.

Liturgist: Blessed be the God of our Savior Jesus Christ!
 Our faith, tested by fire, is renewed.

People: **Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice.**
 God shows us the path of life.

Liturgist: Again, Jesus says to us: Peace be with you.
 Come to receive life in Christ's name.

People: **We rejoice in God's amazing good news.**
 In God's presence, we find fullness of joy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

Forgive us, God, for seeking to limit your truth to what we can understand. Forgive us for chasing after gods of our own making. We are so busy with them that we forget to open ourselves to your larger reality. We reduce the circles of connection and caring that Jesus demonstrated. Goodness is crucified by our narrow prejudices, and our doubts plunge us into despair. Be to us a refuge, granting us courage to face the questions that haunt us until they lead to deeper understanding. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

God never abandons us, no matter how far we stray. We have a goodly heritage which is ours to claim. God shows us the path of life and offers us fullness of joy. Let our hearts be glad and our tongues rejoice. The Living Christ is in our midst. We are granted new birth into a living hope.

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 # 361

FIRST READING

Psalm 16

Liturgist

- ¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- ² I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."
- ³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.
- ⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.
- ⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
- ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.
- ⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
- ⁸ I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
- ¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.
- ¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

SECOND READING

John 20:19-31

Pastor

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Patience in Times of Doubt"

Pastor

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

* **HYMN:** We Walk by Faith # 2196 (*Sing the Faith*)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

(in unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy
Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the
dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father
Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS*Pastor***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

(using debts/debtors)

*(in unison)***OFFERTORY INVITATION***Liturgist*

The boundary lines have fallen for us in pleasant places. We are blessed beyond all deserving. How marvelous is the opportunity placed before us to share what we have received. Let us express our thanks to God for all that is more precious than gold, as we pass on God's gifts to us.

OFFERTORY:

Hymn Medley

*** DOXOLOGY:**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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

We rejoice in the inheritance you have given us, O God, and delight in sharing it with others. You have given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. You have touched our lives with eternity, with indescribable and glorious joy. We want others to experience what we have begun to realize in company with one another and with you. To that end, bless all the offerings of this day. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: Jesus says to us again: Peace be with you.

As God has sent me, so I send you.

People: We receive God's peace into our lives.

We will go where Christ sends us.

Pastor: Feel the wind, the breath of God.

Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

People: We are empowered as disciples and apostles.

We will learn and serve in Jesus' name.

Pastor: Blessed are all who trust and obey.

God will give you counsel and instruction.

People: Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice.

We are learning the way of life God intends.

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: What a Day That Will Be by Hill

Today's Worship Team

Ministers: The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous

Music Director: Donna Lorenzo

Liturgist: Leslie Palermo

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 16, 2023

- APC's annual **Rummage Sale** will be on **Saturday, June 10th**, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Beginning on Sunday, May 28, donations can be placed in the hallway adjacent to the sanctuary and can include: clean clothes, household items, jewelry, books, small electronics (in working condition), and small pieces of furniture (that could be carried by one person).
- Quarterly giving statements for January 1 - March 31 are available on the table in the Narthex. Please contact the church office with any questions or concerns about your statement.
- Everyone is welcome at the next Saturday Breakfast Speaker session at 9 AM on April 22 at Clarence Presbyterian Church. Guest speaker Rev. Jonathan R. Staples, Senior Pastor at First Shiloh Baptist Church, will be speaking on Trauma and the Black Church. Please contact Clarence Presbyterian Church if you plan to attend (office@clarencepresby.org or 716-759-8396).
- APC's Food Pantry is a year-round ministry of our Deacons. Your generous gifts of food and household staples help stretch the budgets of local families struggling to make ends meet. Suggested items include: paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues), ramen noodles, instant soup mix, and dish soap.

Next week — **Sunday, April 23** — Worship Service at 10:30 AM

Devotion of the Week

Let us read **John 20:19-31**.

Questions for your meditation:

Do you know someone like Thomas? What are they like?

When have you doubted and needed more from God?

Amherst Presbyterian Church

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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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