

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.



The Transfiguration by William Brassey Hole

Transfiguration of the Lord

February 27, 2022 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: My Heart Ever Faithful by J. S. Bach

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* INTROIT: Holy Ground # 2272 (*Sing the Faith*) - please sing twice

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: We come together, a community of faith.

We have gathered to talk and listen to our God.

People: May our faces shine in anticipation.

Our God has invited us to this moment of meeting.

Liturgist: We share in a new covenant of promise and hope.

Our spirits have been set free for worship and praise.

People: We come with boldness to encounter our Creator.

We assemble here, eager to be changed by God.

Liturgist: Our fears melt into awe and wonder before God.

Our failures become opportunities for learning.

People: Let us praise God's holy name in chorus.

Let us share in the glory of life. What a gift!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

We tremble before you, O God, for we have sinned. You already know what we have done and what we have failed to do. Hear us now as we recognize and admit our actions and inaction in violation of the trust you have placed in us. Enter into our excuses and our pretensions, Holy One, that we may be saved for ministry and mission. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

God provides moments of transformation, sacred times when we sense the cleansing power of the Spirit restoring life and energy. We are even now being changed, lifted up from one degree of glory to another. Believe the good news. Live it. Do not lose heart but embrace your ministry, by the grace of God.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** When Morning Gilds the Skies # 487

FIRST READING

Liturgist

Psalm 99 (Old Testament, page 552 of your pew Bible)

SECOND READING

Luke 9:28-36

Pastor

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Transfiguration Sunday”

Pastor

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

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

Follow Insert

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(in unison)

The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor

THE LORD’S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

(in unison)

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

How much the church could accomplish with greater resources! How our shared ministry could blossom if our thanksgiving to God exceeded our fear, greed, and ambition. We have taken a small step toward faithfulness in coming to the mountaintop. Will we now be open to let God transform our giving?

OFFERTORY: Just a Closer Walk with Thee (traditional)

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

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

Thank you, God, for choosing us to speak for you and to act on your behalf. It is an honor to share with others what you have entrusted to us. Our offerings represent our selves and the depth of our commitment. We rededicate to you the talents, abilities, and resources you have placed in our hands. May we be faithful in our mutual ministry. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: We have been talking with God; what a privilege!
We have glimpsed eternity; what a joy!

**People: How awesome to worship at the footstool of God!
The veil has been lifted, but the mystery remains.**

Pastor: Where the Spirit of God meets us, there is freedom.
In the presence of God's glory, we are made new.

**People: We go out into the world, singing and rejoicing.
Our faces and our manner declare God's glory.**

Pastor: We have a ministry, by the grace of God.
We are missionaries to a needy world.

**People: We will not fear or lose heart.
We have found within us the dwelling place of God.**

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: We Shall Behold Him by Dottie Rambo

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:	The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous
Music Director:	Donna Lorenzo
Liturgist:	Tom Potts
Usher:	Roberta Jones

Devotion of the Week

Let us re-read **Luke 9:28-36**.

Questions for your meditation:

Recall a time when you were trying to communicate something important but didn't feel heard. What did that feel like? What did the other person do (or not do) that made you feel like they weren't listening? In what ways do you currently try to listen to Jesus? What practices could you try to help you listen better?

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — February 27, 2022

- Please review our current **safety guidelines** on the back of your bulletin.
- The **APC Bell Choir** will meet in the sanctuary today, right after worship.
- Please join us for our **Ash Wednesday** Communion Service on **March 2 at 7 PM**. This is the first of our three annual joint worship services with Clarence and North Presbyterian Churches.
- If you are available to assist with the Ash Wednesday service as an Usher, please let Roberta Jones know.
- The Mission Committee thanks everyone who contributed toys for the Afghan Evacuee Project. Thanks to your generosity and the combined efforts of the Amherst Youth & Recreation Department, we were able to assemble 80 family packs for families with children currently living in dorms or hotel rooms! The folks at Journey's End were truly overwhelmed and case workers have already been out delivering your donations.

The Session and the Mission Committee will continue to explore ways to support this important resettlement ministry. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unaware." (Hebrews 13:2)

- The **Deacons** will have their next meeting on **Sunday, March 6 at noon**.

Upcoming Services:

- ◇ **Wednesday, March 2** — Communion Service, with Ashes at **7:00 PM**
- ◇ **Sunday, March 6** — Worship Service, with Communion at **10:30 AM**

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

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

Face masks must be worn at all times while moving around the sanctuary and building. Please see exceptions below. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you. Medical masks are located on the table in the Narthex.

- ◇ While seated in the sanctuary or in the fellowship hall, you are welcome to remove your mask ***if you are seated with persons who are also fully vaccinated.***
- ◇ If you wish to sing aloud, we encourage you to wear a face mask ***even if you are fully vaccinated.***
- ◇ ***If you are not fully vaccinated,*** you are encouraged to keep your face mask on and maintain proper social distancing at all times while inside the building.
- ◇ Hand sanitizer can be found at the entrance of the church and at various locations throughout the building.
- ◇ If you haven't done so already, please sign the attendance sheet in the Narthex.

~ The Session of Amherst Presbyterian Church



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