

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 God who made the world and everything in it, He who is Lord of heaven and earth... gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 'In him we live and move and have our being.'

Acts 17:24, 25, 28

6th Sunday of Easter

May 14, 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: The Lord's Prayer Malotte

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

*** INTROIT:** The Family of God

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: The God of heaven and earth calls us together.
We come to explore matters of the Spirit.

**People: There is so much we do not know or understand.
So much of God is unknown to us.**

Liturgist: Let us look carefully at the objects of our worship.
Our attention is easily diverted from God.

**People: We want to worship the One who gives us breath.
We reach for the Reality beyond our knowing.**

Liturgist: In God we live and move and have our being.
All that we have and are comes from God.

**People: God is not limited to shrines made by us.
God is everywhere present in the whole universe.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

O God, we confess that we have loved our own way more than we love you.
The Spirit of truth does not abide in us, for our actions belie the words of praise

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we utter in worship. We neglect the spiritual disciplines that would draw us close to you and the caring outreach that would link us with sisters and brothers who need to know of your love. We have not witnessed to our faith in ways powerful enough to evoke opposition or cause us to suffer. O God, it is hard to follow Jesus! Forgive us, teach us, help us! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

You are not left to struggle alone. You have an Advocate who is always with you. You are not rejected. God hears your prayers and offers you steadfast love in all circumstances. Do not be afraid to hope, and to share that hope with others around you. Claim God's gifts of reverence and gentleness as you testify to the resurrection. Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* **HYMN:** All Things Bright and Beautiful # 267

ANTHEM: My Jesus, I Love Thee Featherston/Martin

APC Singers

FIRST READING

Psalm 115

Liturgist

(Please follow along in your pew Bibles, on page 564.)

SECOND READING

Acts 17:22-31

Pastor

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything,

since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,
‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

²⁹ “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON **“To Areopagus”**

Pastor

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

* **HYMN:** Living for Jesus # 2149 (*Sing the Faith*)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elijah Richard Colvin

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.

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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

(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 spiritual ancestors brought sacrifices as offerings to God. We are invited to join them in bringing our best to proclaim God's rule over all things. God claims our labors and the fruit of our labors. In response, we offer them gladly.

OFFERTORY: Sunday School (medley) Arr.

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

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

May all that we give today be used to express your love among us and beyond us, God of all people. We are thankful for your gift to us in Christ Jesus, who was so committed to sharing your love that he risked rejection and death. We are grateful that even though his suffering resulted in death, yet you made him alive. May Christ live today in us, in our caring, in our giving, in our speaking, in our doing. We rededicate ourselves to your service. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: God has listened to our prayers and abides with us.
God's blessing rests on us as we scatter to serve.

**People: The Spirit lives within us and among us.
We seek to live as resurrection people.**

Pastor: Daily God will add to your understanding if you ask.
Do not fear to seek after the truth God will reveal.

**People: Every day can be an adventure in faith.
All our encounters can link us more closely with God.**

Pastor: Our Creator draws us into community.
Our spiritual journey is linked to others' stories.

**People: Together we will seek to know God more fully.
We will remember one another in prayer.**

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: Count Your Blessings Oatman

Today's Worship Team

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

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 — May 14, 2023

- Today's flowers are from Sundal Saqib, in celebration of Saqib Samuel's birthday.
- Next Sunday, on **May 21st**, our Deacons will host a **Finger Foods** Luncheon after the service. Everyone is welcome to join us for this time of fellowship.
- On **Sunday, June 3rd**, beginning at 9:00 AM, everyone is invited to participate in our annual **Spring Cleanup**. Sign up on the Fellowship bulletin board (by the nursery). Please see Pastor Amir if you have any questions.
- APC's annual **Rummage Sale** will be on **Saturday, June 10**, from 9am until 1pm. There are many ways you can be a part of this great event... donations, helping before during or after the sale, shopping... any way you'd like to participate would be a blessing to the church and to each other.
- Throughout the month of May, our Deacons are collecting donations for Church World Service (**CWS**) **blankets**. Informational flyers and special giving envelopes are on the table in the Narthex.

Next week — ***Sunday, May 21***

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service

11:30 AM - Finger Foods Luncheon

Devotion of the Week

Let us read **Acts 17:22-31**.

Questions for your meditation:

What feels “known” to you about God? In what ways have you come to understand God?

What feels “unknown” to you about God? In what ways is God shrouded in mystery?

How have you positioned yourself for new discoveries in faith? How do you search for God?

Amherst Presbyterian Church

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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(scheduling your visit is recommended)

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

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