



Come, O come let us adore Him now,

JESUS, SAVIOR,

Emmanuel.

Emmanuel...God with us.

MATTHEW 1:23

PRELUDE: Still, Still, Still by Winklhofer

WELCOME

Tom Potts

INTROIT: O Come, All Ye Faithful # 41

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tom Potts

Liturgist: In the beginning and in the midst of darkness, God spoke.

People: Let there be light.

Liturgist: In the beginning was the Word. And the Word came and dwelt among us.
And the Word was the light of all peoples.

People: Let there be light.

Liturgist: We light our candles, knowing that the One who is the source and
promise of all light is the One whose birth we celebrate.

People: Let there be light.

Liturgist: We are here to seek a little light by which we can see, by which we can
live, by which we can love.

People: Let there be light.

Liturgist: We need to know that we are part of something greater than the flicker of
our own little candles. We long to be assured that the light of Christ is
with us even in the moment.

People: Let there be light.

Liturgist: So we light our candles in gratitude for the love and light that shine
through the baby born in Bethlehem who became the Redeemer of us all.

People: Let there be light.

Liturgist: May we be so emboldened as to share the love of God with a world
longing for light and hope, purpose, and love. May our actions and
generosity shine in a world under the shadow of despair.

People: Let there be light.

Liturgist: We join the chorus of those whose carols have echoed through the
years—"O come to us, abide in us, our Lord, Emmanuel."

People: Let there be light.

HYMN: O Little Town of Bethlehem # 44

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 *Colleen Gibson*

HYMN: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing # 31

SECOND READING: Luke 2:1-20 *Tom Potts*

SOLO: What Child Is This *Leslie Palermo*

THIRD READING: Titus 2:11-14 *Judie Bailey*

HYMN: O Holy Night *(insert)*

FOURTH READING: Psalm 96 *Pastor Amir*

MEDITATION & THE LORD'S SUPPER *Pastor Amir*

INVITATION TO LIGHT CANDLES

HYMN: Silent Night, Holy Night # 60

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

Pastor: Carry a song on your lips and joy in your hearts. Let all the world observe the good news you convey.

People: **Glory to God, glory to God in the highest! May God's peace reign among all people!**

Pastor: As shepherds praised God for all they saw and heard, we are commissioned to share Christmas joy.

People: **A baby has become our Wonderful Counselor. A child is pointing us to the way of peace.**

Pastor: The grace of God is your salvation, now and always. Jesus Christ is the blessed hope who embraces us.

People: **We join in glorifying and praising God. We welcome the Christ into our hearts and homes.**

ALL: **Amen.**

POSTLUDE: For Unto Us a Child is Born by Handel

Please observe the following safety guidelines for in-person worship:

- ◇ Per the Erie County Mask Mandate, anyone in an indoor, public location, is required to wear a mask/face covering.
- ◇ Everyone attending the worship service is asked to please wear a mask for the duration of the service, including while singing.
- ◇ People who are not from the same household are encouraged to sit 6 feet apart in the sanctuary.
- ◇ Worship leaders may temporarily remove their masks while speaking during the service if they are at least 12 feet away from others.
- ◇ If you haven't done so already, please sign the attendance sheet in the Narthex.



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

Poinsettia Dedications

From Judie Bailey

In thanksgiving for friends and family!

From Colleen Gibson

In memory of family gone.

In thanksgiving for family here.

From The Huffakers

In memory of those dearly departed.

In thanksgiving for our family.

In honor of Pastor Amir.

From Lois Potts

In memory of Ted.

From Tom Potts

In memory of Michele.

O Holy Night

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of our dear Savior's birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn; Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand; So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here came the wise men from Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our Friend; He knows our need, To our weakness is no stranger. Behold your King, before Him lowly bend! Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace; Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name, all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us praise His Holy name; Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Christmas Eve 2021

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Lord, we greet you this happy night, for you have been at work in our world throughout all time. You made all things and called them good.

People: You claimed your people, freed them from the bondage, and journeyed with them through the wilderness to the promised land.

Pastor: You sent prophets to call your people back to you. Then in the fullness of time you sent your Son Jesus, Immanuel, born the King of Kings, your Word in flesh appearing.

People: He was one of us and lived with us, giving up all his glory for our sake to make us whole.

Pastor: And yet you raised him up again to overcome the power of death and live a new life.

People: Still we wait for the day when we too will share the fullness of life in him and with him.

Pastor: And so, O God, come among us tonight. Show us your presence in this bread and this cup, and make this bread we break and this cup we bless the body and blood of Christ.

People: By the power of your Holy Spirit, unite us with Christ and all who share this feast, just as you send us out to be his presence in and for your world.

ALL: Give us courage to be your people, to show your justice, grace, mercy, peace, and love, and to be a part of your transformation of our world until the day when the baby whose birth we celebrate tonight comes again in peace and we sing your praise and glory forever. Amen.

(Breaking the Bread & Pouring the Cup)

Unison Prayer after Communion

Lord, by your Birth, by your Cross, and by your Resurrection you have set us free. As we celebrate your Incarnation may we rejoice in the eternal love that gave extraordinary new meaning to the lives of your faithful ones. Amen.