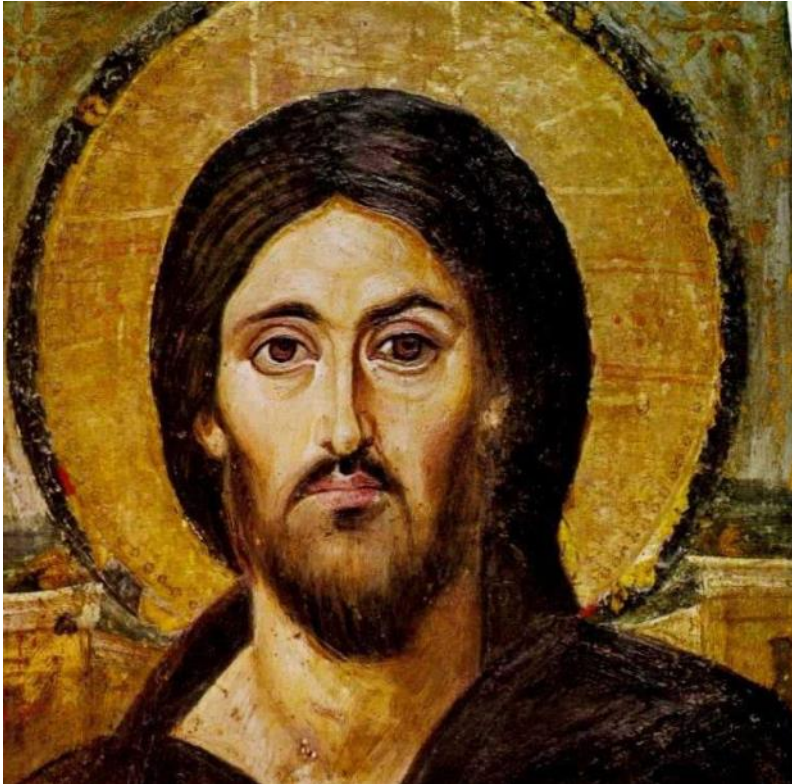


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.

Christ Pantokrator



3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 9, 2024 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: Fanfare of Praise Bellingham

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

* INTROIT: Give Thanks # 647 (purple)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Gather to give thanks with your whole heart.
Rejoice in God's love and faithfulness.

**People: We bow down, for this is God's holy temple.
We pour out our thanks in songs of praise.**

Liturgist: God answers us when we call.
Our Creator increases our strength of soul.

**People: Great is the glory of our God!
We rejoice in God's steadfast love.**

Liturgist: Wait for God, and hope in God's Word.
Open your hearts to the holy presence in our midst.

**People: Our ears are attentive to the voice of God.
We open our lives to God's direction.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(in unison)

We confess, O God, that we often act as if we know better than you what is right for us. We make decisions without considering your larger purposes. Our own convenience and desires are more important to us than your commands. We go our own way and then blame others for our mistakes. Our inner confusion creates division and brokenness. We hide from you rather than admitting our needs. O God, we want to face our sin and find forgiveness. Help us! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

The One who raised Jesus from the dead offers us new life today. Our sins are forgiven. Our lives are cleansed. Our inner nature is being renewed. God does not forsake us. We are the work of God's hands, the object of steadfast love. Meet the world with the assurance that you are loved, valued, and empowered as an ambassador of God's eternal realm.

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* HYMN: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less # 353 (purple)

FIRST READING

Psalm 138

Liturgist

- ¹ I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
- ² I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.
- ³ On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.
- ⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
- ⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.
- ⁶ For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.
- ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
- ⁸ The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

APC SINGERS: With Grateful Heart (Psalm 138) Bortmansky

SECOND READING

Mark 3:20-35

Pastor

Then he went home; ²⁰ and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” ²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” ²³ And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸ “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—³⁰ for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.” ³³ And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Which Jesus do you prefer?”

Pastor

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

* **HYMN:** They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love # 2223 (*Sing the Faith*)

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(in unison)

A Brief Statement of Faith (verses 7-26)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

SHARING OF JOYS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Pastor

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

(in unison)

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Liturgist

Many of our resources are committed to time payments, taxes, rent, or mortgages. Our need for food, shelter, and clothing take precedence in our lives. We also confuse wants with needs, the more and more affluent we become. Where is our thanksgiving to God in all this? And our commitment to love God and neighbor as ourselves? We give in proportion to our faith.

OFFERTORY: The Prayer Foster

* **DOXOLOGY:** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow # 606

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(in unison)

Thank you, God, for your faithfulness. We bring ourselves and some of what we have accumulated to praise you and do the work you call us to do. Fulfill your purpose for this church as you enlist our offerings and our lives. In amazement at the work of your hands, we reach out our hands to help others and

(continued on next page)

invite them to join us. In our labors for you, we will not lose heart. Help us to do your will. Amen.

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: God's grace has been poured out on us.
We are invited to share it with more and more people.

**People: We seek to live so God's grace is evident.
We will consult with God in our decision-making.**

Pastor: Go into the world to serve, to the glory of God.
May your thanksgiving increase day by day.

**People: Our praise will not cease when we leave this place.
All the world is God's temple, a place to give thanks.**

Pastor: We are brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.
The Holy Spirit has come among us and abides with us.

**People: We have good news to share, so we will do it!
May our thanksgiving proclaim God's glory!**

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: Family of God Gaither

Today's Worship Team

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

APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — June 9, 2024

- Everyone is invited to celebrate and welcome our new members in Fellowship Hall after the service today.
- Immediately following the new member reception there will be a joint meeting of the Session and Deacons in Fellowship Hall. All church members and staff are also encouraged to attend.
- The Session will meet on Monday, June 10 at 7:00 PM, via Zoom.
- On Tuesday, June 11, Rachael Circle will have their annual luncheon in Fellowship Hall at Noon. Lunch will be provided by Mary Ellen Jerge and dessert by Lois Potts; please bring your own beverage.

Next week — ***Sunday, June 16*** — Father's Day
9:30 AM - Bible Study
10:30 AM - Worship Service

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

Devotion of the Week

Let us read ***Mark 3:20–35***.

Questions for your meditation:

While many seek to be near Jesus, he seems to antagonize others. What are his qualities that attract and repel?

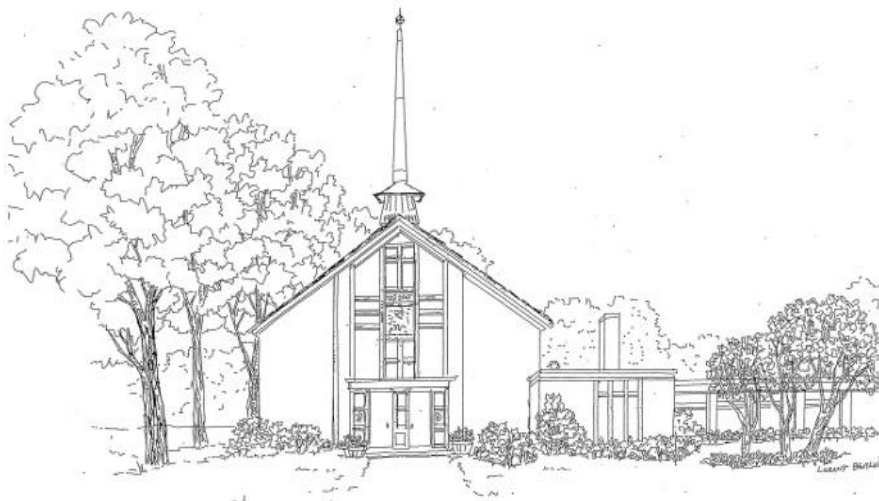
What does Jesus' statement about a house divided against itself bring to mind? When does disagreement become division?

What is challenging and what is promising in the ways Jesus speaks about family?

Amherst Presbyterian Church

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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