

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.



## ***Transfiguration of the Lord***

**February 11, 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:** Canticle of Praise Johannes

**OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Liturgist*

**\* INTROIT:** Holy Ground # 2272 (*Sing the Faith*)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: God summons us from the sun's rising to its setting.  
Listen, for the mighty One speaks to us.

**People: Our God comes and does not keep silence.  
Through fire and tempest, God is with us.**

Liturgist: God gathers those faithful to the covenant.  
Be quick to respond to God's invitation.

**People: We seek a double share of the prophet's spirit.  
We look for a vision to claim our souls.**

Liturgist: Open your ears to the good news of the gospel.  
Open your eyes to the glory of God.

**People: We have come to share knowledge of Jesus Christ.  
We gather, seeking transformation and empowerment.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

When the gospel is veiled from us, mighty God, we feel alone. How easy it is to lose our direction and go the wrong way! At times, we feel as if we are perishing under the demands of our day, unable to see clearly what is most important. We become enslaved to our routines and enticed by shallow distractions. We fill all our hours with doing so there is no time for reflection and prayer. Forgive us, O God, and restore balance to our lives. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*(in unison)*

God promises light for our nighttime and guidance on our way. In Christ, God lifts the veil so we can catch a glimpse of glory. There is peace to be found in the midst of turmoil. There is freedom and quiet even amid our busyness. We are released from our slavery to things, and lifted up beyond the limitations of our habits. God forgives us and offers new meaning to our lives.

## **PASSING OF PEACE**

*Pastor*

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

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

\* **HYMN:** Shine, Jesus, Shine # 2173 (*Sing the Faith*)

## **FIRST READING**

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

*Liturgist*

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## **SECOND READING**

Mark 9:2-9

*Pastor*

<sup>2</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with

*(continued on next page)*

them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** "Transfiguration of the Lord" *Pastor*

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

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE** *Follow Insert*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(in unison)*

**1 Timothy 3:16**

Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great:

He was revealed in flesh,  
vindicated in spirit,  
seen by angels,  
proclaimed among Gentiles,  
believed in throughout the world,  
taken up in glory.

**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*

Through our offerings, we support prophetic leadership, provide possibilities for mountaintop experiences, and enable the teaching ministry of our church. Our generosity can make a difference in the lives of people we will never know and in our own lives as well. Let us give from our hearts in deep thanksgiving.

**OFFERTORY:** Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus Lemmel

\* **DOXOLOGY:** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow # 606 (purple)

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

Use our gifts, mighty God, to bring light where there is gloom, hope where there is despair, peace where there is turmoil. May Jesus Christ be proclaimed among us and around your world. May righteousness and justice prevail in spite of differences. May we inherit a double portion of the prophets' spirit to discern clearly the ways you would have us go. We dedicate ourselves and our offering to these ends. Amen.

## \* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: It has been good for us to be together.  
Now we scatter to share good news.

**People: God has visited earth in human form.  
In Jesus Christ, the beloved of God, humanity is blessed.**

Pastor: Light from the gospel has been revealed to us.  
We are becoming lights to the world.

**People: It is an awesome responsibility to reflect God's glory.  
Ours is a wonderful opportunity to show God's love.**

Pastor: God will not leave us or forsake us.  
God's presence is constant and dependable.

**People: We depart with confidence and joy.  
We will carry the knowledge of Christ in our hearts.**

**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:** Medley, This Little Light of Mine/May the Circle Be Unbroken Arr.

Today's Worship Team

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

**Devotion of the Week**

Let us read **2 Corinthians 4:3-6** and **Mark 9:2-9**.

**Questions for your meditation:**

When have you experienced wonder? What was your reaction in that moment?

Do you think God continues to reveal God's self to us? How?

How do you think the Transfiguration stands as a threshold between Epiphany and Lent?

## **APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — February 11, 2024**

- The next Session Meeting will be on Monday, February 12 at 7:00 PM, via Zoom.
- Rachael Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 13th at noon at the Church. All are welcome as we continue our study of the Ten Commandments. Bring a bag lunch and beverage. Dessert will be provided by our Hostess, Marie Garrett.
- Thank you for remembering our APC Food Pantry when grocery shopping and for bringing those donations to church. Items that would be helpful include paper products, hearty soups, canned meats, pasta, sauce, beans, and rice.
- Ash Wednesday is this week, on February 14th. APC will host a pancake dinner that evening at 6:00 PM, followed by a service with our sister churches at 7:00 PM. Diners are asked to please bring their own place settings and RSVP to Jim Price at [jdprice@buffalo.edu](mailto:jdprice@buffalo.edu) (to ensure we have enough pancakes for everyone). You may also bring a favorite topping to share.
- A beautiful variety of Easter Plants are available this year. Please see the enclosed order form or Lois Potts for more details.

Next week — ***Sunday, February 18***

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

# 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