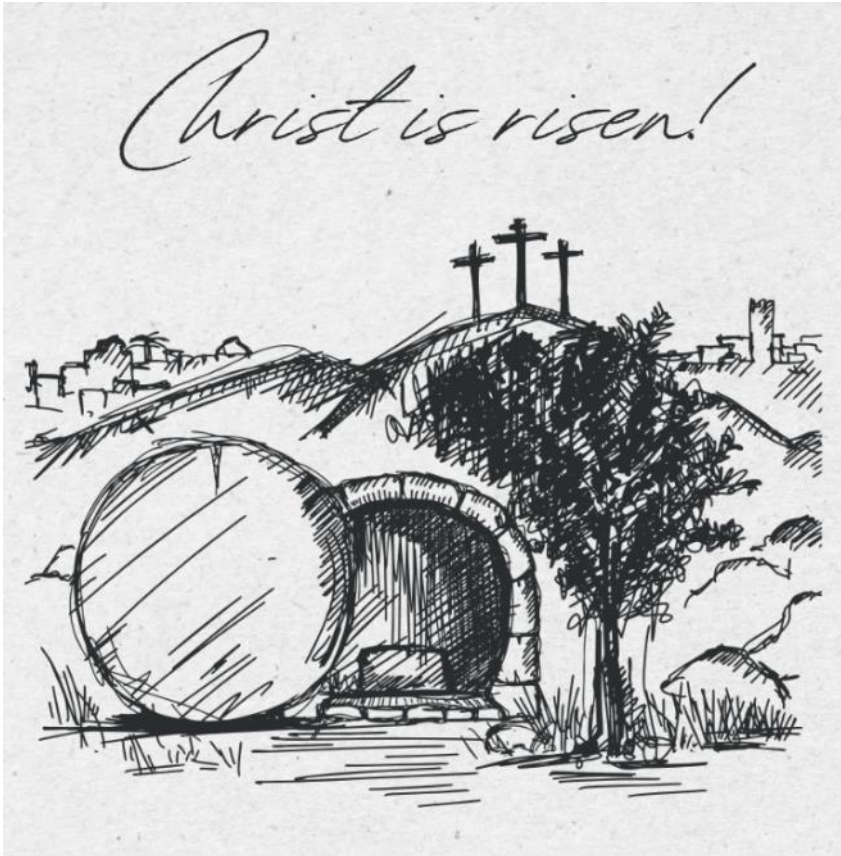


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



Easter Sunday

March 31, 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: In the Garden Miles *Linda Stotsky, Flute*

OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *Liturgist*

*** INTROIT:** Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! # 104 (blue hymnal)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: This is a great and joyous festival day.
Come to celebrate amazing good news.

**People: We gather for worship in awe and wonder.
The tomb is empty; death is not the last word.**

Liturgist: Sing songs of praise, for God is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever.

**People: God has answered our prayers with salvation.
Jesus Christ is alive and we, too, shall live.**

Liturgist: Open your hearts and minds to the risen Christ.
You are greeted by name and welcomed here.

**People: This is the day that our God has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

We cannot truly worship you, loving God, until we recognize how unloving we have been. We cannot truly live until we admit the many ways we have been dwelling in death. We cannot know forgiveness until we honestly face the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected. We admit before you now the anger and spite we have carried in our hearts, the doubts and fears we have allowed to paralyze us, the misplaced priorities that have led us away from your will and way. Help us break down the barriers we have erected so we can experience new life today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

(in unison)

God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right finds forgiveness and acceptance. The One who came to embody love among people is ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. In Jesus' name, our sins are forgiven, and we are being saved. The grace of God is extended to each of us on this day of resurrection. Praise God!

PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor

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

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

* HYMN: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today # 123 (blue hymnal)

APC SINGERS: Hear the Bells Herring

FIRST READING

Psalm 118:14-24

Liturgist

(please turn to page 565 of the Old Testament in your pew Bible)

SECOND READING

Mark 16:1-8

Pastor

¹ When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The Resurrection 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)

From The Book of Common Worship

This is the good news
which we have received,
in which we stand,
and by which we are saved,
if we hold it fast:
that Christ died for our sins
according to the scriptures,
that he was buried,
that he was raised on the third day,
and that he appeared
first to the women,
then to Peter, and to the Twelve,
and then to many faithful witnesses.
We believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last,
the beginning and the end;
he is our Lord and our God. 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

When we have seen the Christ, that makes all the difference in our view of life.
When we have encountered life, we can no longer pursue the ways of death.
When we realize how much we have received from a loving God, our gratitude
pours forth in eagerness to share good news with the world.

OFFERTORY: I Know My Redeemer Liveth Handel

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

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

We consecrate all we have brought to share, that the message of today may spread through the streets and across the lands, beginning within these walls and bursting out for all the world to hear and observe. May the glad songs motivate practical ministries. As forgiven and forgiving people, we take new life into the marketplace, into our jobs and schools, into our social life and leisure hours. May all we offer express true thankfulness. Amen.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: In Christ, we have been rescued from death.
At the cross, we have learned the cost of true love.

People: **In Jesus, we have observed courage and faithfulness.**
At the empty tomb, we have met the power of Love.

Pastor: Continue to sing the glad songs of victory.
Dare to live the welcoming message of God's grace.

People: **Christ has appeared to us in the joy of this day.**
We have been empowered to reach out to others.

Pastor: The One who was rejected holds the key to life.
The key of unconditional love is passed on to us.

People: **We have seen the risen Christ, and we are changed.**
We have been chosen as witnesses to resurrection.

ALL: Amen.

* **HYMN:** Christ Is Alive! # 108 (blue hymnal) - verse 1 only

POSTLUDE: Resurrection Medley Arr. Deleys/Lorenzo

Today's Worship Team

Ministers:	The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous
Music Director:	Dr. Donna Lorenzo
Liturgist:	Tom Potts
Vocalists:	The APC Singers
Flutist:	Linda Stotsky
Trumpeter:	Jim Price

Devotion of the Week

Let us read **Mark 16:1-8.**

Questions for your meditation:

What emotions does Mark's Easter story stir in you?

What intentions for your life of Christian discipleship can you set for yourself today?

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 — March 31, 2024

- This morning's flowers are from Doreen Connolly, in memory of Barbara Stillwell-Lucas, beloved mother.
- Our Deacons and the Friends of Night People organization wish to say thank you to everyone who donated to "Undies Sundays" this month. Your gifts will help those in need within our community and are greatly appreciated.
- Today is the last day to give to the PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for your donations to support the ministries of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger, and Self-Development of People.
- Join us out on our lawn for a Solar Eclipse Viewing Party on Monday, April 8, beginning at 2:00 PM. A limited number of free viewing glasses will be available. Bring a lawn chair and feel free to invite your family and friends to watch this momentous event together! (Note: in case of inclement weather, we'll watch from inside of Fellowship Hall.)

Next week — ***Sunday, April 7***

9:30 AM - Bible Study

10:30 AM - Worship Service with Communion

12:00 PM - Deacons' Meeting



Amherst Presbyterian Church

151 S. Youngs Road

Williamsville, NY 14221-7023



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