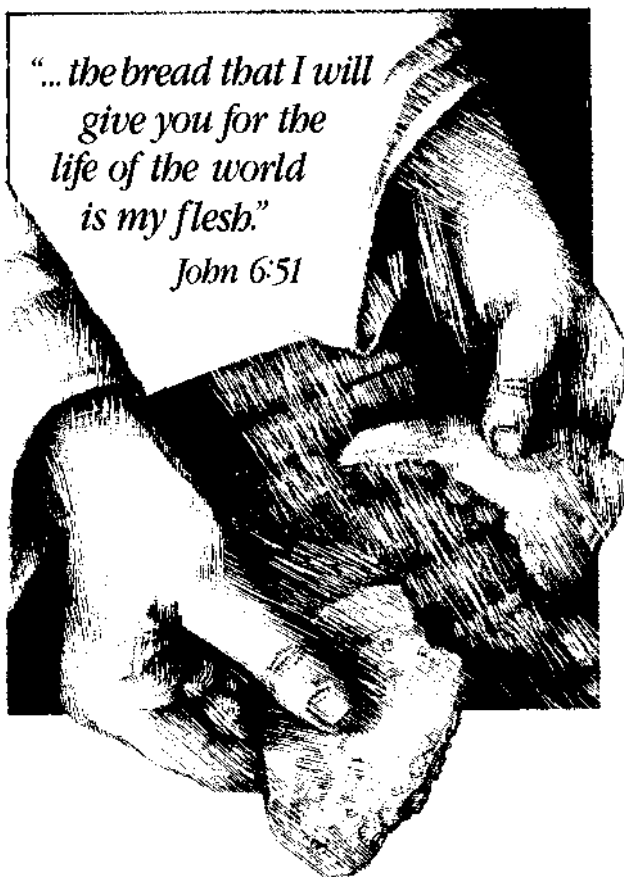


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



***13th Sunday after Pentecost***

**August 18, 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: A Grateful Heart Miller

**OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Liturgist*

\* INTROIT: Great Is the Lord # 2022 (*Sing the Faith*)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: God is gracious and merciful and trustworthy.  
Let us join our voices in giving thanks.

**People: The works of God are all around us.  
Those who share in God's work lack for nothing.**

Liturgist: We are called to faithfulness, as God is faithful.  
We are people of the covenant, gathered to please God.

**People: Holy and awesome is God's name.  
The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.**

Liturgist: Come, then, as wise and faithful people.  
Come as a beloved community of the redeemed.

**People: We are amazed that God remembers us.  
We reach out to the God who cares for us.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

O God, we confess that we have lived so comfortably in the abundance of our times that we have made things our gods. We spend our days dreaming of (and working for) possessions that cannot satisfy. The pursuit of riches replaces the quest for faith and faithful relationships. We do not know you, God, and our relationships with others are superficial at best. Redeem us, we pray, from our self-destructive ways and restore us to your covenant community. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, believe in the Good News of the Gospel.

**ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Made new and whole!  
Hallelujah!**

## PASSING OF PEACE

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

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

\* **HYMN:** O Worship the King, All Glorious Above! # 41 (purple)

## FIRST READING

Psalm 111

*Liturgist*

- 1 Praise the Lord!  
I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the works of the Lord,  
studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 Full of honor and majesty is his work,  
and his righteousness endures forever.
- 4 He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.
- 5 He provides food for those who fear him;  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works,  
in giving them the heritage of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;  
all his precepts are trustworthy.
- 8 They are established forever and ever,  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant forever.  
Holy and awesome is his name.
- 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever.

**SECOND READING**

John 6:51-58

*Leader*

<sup>51</sup> “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

<sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

<sup>54</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup> for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.

<sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON****“Spiritual Buffet”***Mr. Mark Aquino*

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

\* **HYMN:** I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I Am, Lord) # 69 (purple)

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

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

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

*(continued on next page)*

Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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**

*Leader*

## **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*

As we make melody to God with our hearts and voices, let our hands also be employed in service. We here offer ourselves and the fruits of our labor that God may bless and multiply the good to be accomplished through them and us. May our riches be employed for the common benefit of all God's children.

**OFFERTORY:** Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart Croly

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

## **\* OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*(in unison)*

Your generosity, O God, is beyond our deserving. You grant health to our bodies and minds. You surround us with vast resources and with people who love us. You allow us to make decisions about the use of our time and possessions and relationships. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to share with others some of what we have received. Help us to use all our gifts as you intend.  
Amen.

**\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Leader: Jesus said, 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven.' Go forth today, nourished by His presence, to share His love and grace with others.

**ALL: We go forth, strengthened by God's promise, to live as reflections of God's eternal life and eternal bread.**

**\* 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:** Alleluia! Laud and Blessing Sion

Today's Worship Team

Ministers: The People and Mr. Mark Aquino  
Music Director: Dr. Donna Lorenzo  
Liturgist: Leslie Palermo  
Vocalists: The APC Singers

**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 — August 18, 2024

- We are glad to welcome Mr. Mark Aquino to our pulpit this morning, and we are grateful to him for leading our worship service.
- On Sunday, August 25th we will have a brief Congregational Meeting to vote on the new slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee.
- C O M M \_ \_ N I O N... what's missing? "U" That's right, we need YOU! Sign up to help with communion on the bulletin board across from the nursery.

Next week — ***Sunday, August 25***

10:30 AM - Worship Service

12:00 PM - Congregational Meeting

### ***Devotion of the Week***

Let us read ***Psalm 111*** and ***John 6:51-58***.

#### **Questions for your meditation:**

How do you find time to feed your spirit amidst your daily routine? Reflect on how you prioritize spiritual growth in the midst of work, family, and other responsibilities.

How do you seek nourishment for your soul in the same way you seek food for your body? Consider what daily habits or practices help you stay spiritually strong and balanced.

When life gets overwhelming, what helps you remember that there's more to life than the present moment? Think about how your faith helps you stay grounded and hopeful.

# Amherst Presbyterian Church

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Office Phone:** 716-633-4656 / **Email:** AmherstPC@verizon.net

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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