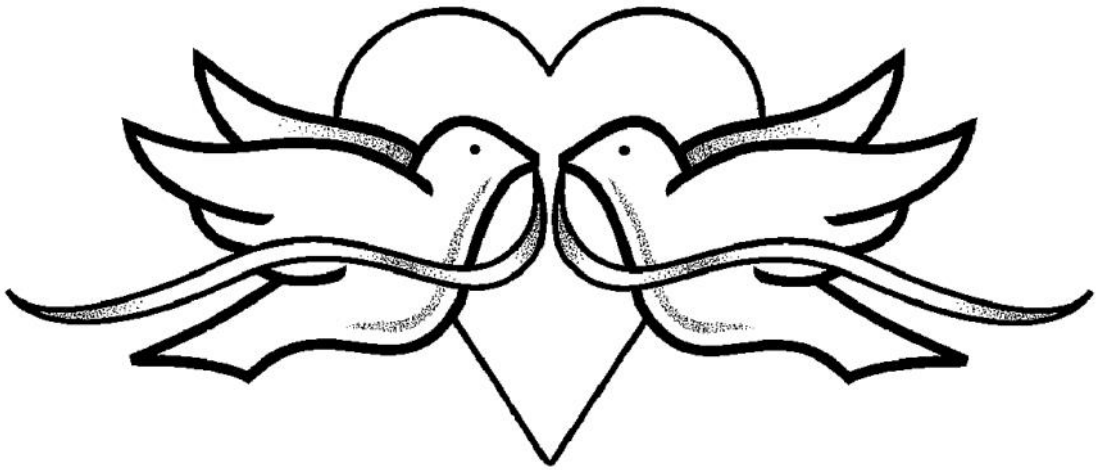


Welcome to *Amherst Presbyterian Church*. We are one of the visible churches for the invisible church that shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Christ that fills all in all.

You are so welcome to our worship every Sunday.



## ***Nurturing Joy!***

***2nd Sunday after Epiphany***

**January 19, 2025 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: Andante Veracini

**OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Liturgist*

\* **INTROIT:** He Has Made Me Glad # 2270 (*Sing the Faith*) - Sing twice

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: With steadfast love, God calls our names.

Come to find refuge in the shelter of God's ways.

**People: We long to be recognized and affirmed.**

**We are eager for a place of shelter and security.**

Liturgist: Feast on the abundance of God's house.

Come to drink deeply from the fountain of life.

**People: We are ready to hear the Word of God.**

**We want to be guided by eternal truth.**

Liturgist: Reach out to claim the gifts God pours out on us.

The Spirit is eager to inspire and empower each one.

**People: When God calls us, we cannot remain silent.**

**When Christ is real to us, we accept our discipleship.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*(in unison)*

God of the heathen and the righteous, we confess that we have moved away from our commitment to Christ. We have denied your gifts, ignored your inspiration, and wandered from your healing presence. Yet we cannot escape your claim on us, for wherever we go, you are there. How precious is your steadfast love that saves us from our selfish desires to live for higher values! Strengthen us to do as you tell us, as Christ demonstrated among us. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

*(in unison)*

God does not treat us as heathens, forsaken and desolate. We are welcomed with rejoicing, enfolded by love, celebrated as persons of beauty in whose salvation God delights. Let your hearts be lifted up. We are not bound to our old ways but are freed for a new identity. God's benevolent gifts are apportioned to each of us in abundance.

## **PASSING OF PEACE**

*Pastor*

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

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

\* **HYMN:** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee # 611 (purple)

## **FIRST READING**

Psalm 36:5-10

*Liturgist*

- <sup>5</sup> Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the clouds.
- <sup>6</sup> Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,  
your judgments are like the great deep;  
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.
- <sup>7</sup> How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
- <sup>8</sup> They feast on the abundance of your house,  
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
- <sup>9</sup> For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.
- <sup>10</sup> O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,  
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

## **SECOND READING**

John 2:1-11

*Pastor*

- <sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.
- <sup>3</sup> When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no

*(continued on next page)*

wine.”<sup>4</sup> And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.”<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”<sup>6</sup> Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.<sup>8</sup> He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it.<sup>9</sup> When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom<sup>10</sup> and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.”<sup>11</sup> Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

**“Nurturing Joy!”**

*Pastor*

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

\* **HYMN:** Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine! # 839 (purple)

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*(in unison)*

From 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

*(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*

What will we give in gratitude for God's forgiveness and healing grace? Who can repay the many gifts we have received with the miracle of life? Let us rejoice in the mission God entrusts to us.

**OFFERTORY:** His Eye Is On the Sparrow Gabriel

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

### \* OFFERTORY PRAYER

*(in unison)*

God of our baptism, whose Holy Spirit fires our imagination and fills our lives with purpose, we rejoice to commit ourselves anew with our gifts. May what we share strengthen your children spiritually, inspiring each person to invest fully in the work you set before us. The varieties of gifts you entrust to us can be realized only if they are used. Thank you for granting us this joy. Amen.

### \* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Pastor: Depart to serve, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.  
Use the wisdom, faith, and knowledge you received.

People: **We cannot rest in God's care or keep silent.**  
**The love of God must be lived and shared.**

*(continued on next page)*

Pastor: Go forth with praise on your lips.  
The steadfast love of God will light your paths.

**People: We want to offer light and hope to others.  
Daily, we will seek inspiration for this joyous task.**

Pastor: Reach out as listening, caring, healing people.  
Your love will become a miracle for someone in need.

**People: We pray that God will keep us open to further learning.  
May our humble witness attract others to Christ.**

**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: Because He Lives Gaither**

Today's Worship Team

Ministers: The People and Rev. Amir Tawadrous  
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, Joan Hambleton, Betty Knowl, Lois McMillan, Gail Trankle

## APC CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — January 19, 2025

- Please pick up your annual giving statement from the table in the narthex.
- On Friday, January 24 the Dominoes Game Group will be in Fellowship Hall starting at 2:00 PM. Everyone is invited to this fun-filled afternoon! See Marie Garrett for more information.
- We encourage everyone to make plans to attend our Annual Congregational Meeting after the worship service on Sunday, January 26. All committee chairs and group leaders should email their 2024 annual reports to [amherstpc@verizon.net](mailto:amherstpc@verizon.net) by Monday, January 20.
- The next Deacons' Meeting will be on Sunday, February 2 at noon.

Next week — ***Sunday, January 26***

10:30 AM - Worship Service

12:00 PM - Annual Congregational Meeting

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

Let us read ***Psalm 36:5-10*** and ***John 2:1-11***.

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

What details from this scripture story stand out to you? Have you read this story before? Do you notice anything new in reading this story again?

What feels the most extravagant and abundant about our church's ministry?

# **Amherst Presbyterian Church**

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## **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:** [www.amherstpreshurch.com](http://www.amherstpreshurch.com)

**Facebook:** Amherst Presbyterian Church—closed group; ask to be invited