

Amity Presbyterian Church



Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 2024

Glorifying Christ - Always Loving, Serving, & Growing

Welcome to worship! We're glad you're here. At Amity, we truly believe that each person is a loved child of God, so we seek to welcome everyone as fully as God does. We celebrate the presence of children of all ages in worship, along with their noise and wiggles. Please make yourself at home.

Guest Minister: Rev. Erin Tolar
Worship Leader: Lynne Hutchins

Director of Music: Isaiah Cornelius

2831 N. Sharon Amity Rd. · Charlotte, NC 28205 · 704-537-3484 · www.amitypc.org

We Gather Around the Word

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*The congregation speaks the words in **bold***)

People of God, let us enter worship with faith and trust.

We are here with our questions. We are here with our doubt.

We wonder why things happen the way they do.

We come looking for answers and deeper understanding.

Meet us in the mystery, Lord, and light the way.

Be near to us God. Comfort us and love us.

*SONG OF PRAISE

When We Are Living

Hymn #822

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Singing together:

Music: #695

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you. (repeat)

Together we make our confession:

Merciful God,

we confess that there are moments in our lives

when we cannot bear to lift up songs of praise,

when we cannot see you through our own tears.

**We confess that too often this broken world doesn't make sense;
the innocent suffer and evil seems to win.**

We cry out "Lord, if you had only been there..."

Forgive us, Lord, when we get stuck in our anger and sorrow.

Remind us that you are Emmanuel, God with us,

**for you share in our weeping and light the way to new life
even as we walk in the shadow of death.**

Lord, in your weeping, set us free.

Silent prayer

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: ...Hear and believe the good news of the gospel!

Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia, amen!

We Proclaim the Word

THE GOSPEL IN OTHER WORDS

Children of all ages are invited to come to the front.

PSALTER READING *Psalms 137:1-6* Page 973 in Pew Bible

GOSPEL READING *John 11:23-35* Page 1669 in Pew Bible

*SUNG RESPONSE *Glory Be to the Father* Hymn #581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

MESSAGE *"Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?"* Rev. Tolar

We Respond to the Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

...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.

INVITATION TO GIVE

We Follow the Word Into the World

*SONG OF PRAISE

What Wondrous Love Is This

Hymn #215

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen

Hymn #561

A musical score for the benediction response 'Amen'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'A - men, a - men, a - men.' are written below the treble staff. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*POSTLUDE

*You're invited to stand, if able

Pastor Megan is away on study leave and will return to the office next week.

We welcome Rev. Erin Tolar as our Guest Minister this morning. She is currently serving as Pastoral Resident at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. Part of her ministry responsibilities is spending time in leadership here at Amity.

Weekly Lenten Bible Study will be held each Wednesday, February 21st through March 27th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Amity Room. Pastor Megan will lead a study deeper into the scriptures and themes for each week.

Children in Worship Today After the children's message, kids 4 years old through 5th grade will be invited to go with Youth Director, Tate, and another adult volunteer to the Amity Children's Library for child-focused discipleship. The group will return to worship during the final hymn. Parents who would like to observe are welcome! This will be offered every 2nd Sunday of the month.

The Seekers will sponsor a service project workday on Saturday, March 16, for tidying up the sanctuary and/or Johnston Hall. We will meet at 10:00 in the sanctuary and go to lunch when we're done.

The Congregational Life Team will meet on Wednesday, March 13, at 1:00 in the Amity Room.