



AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 31st March 2024

EASTER DAY

MORNING WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION,

led by The Revds Ian Green andCarolynn Croisdale Appleby

Organist: Edward Cross

All who love and follow our Lord Jesus Christ are invited to receive communion.

If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine please let them pass by without embarrassment.

*If you are able please stand for those parts of the service marked with an asterisk **

Prelude 'Lone' Fugue in G Minor BWV 578 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

GOD INVITES US TO WORSHIP

* **Hymn 232:** Christ the Lord is risen today

During which the Bible is taken to the pulpit

Opening Responses

Leader: Praise be to the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**All: In his great mercy he has given us
a new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead.**

Leader: Christ is Risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: and also with you.



Prayer of Praise and Confession, The Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Notices

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

* **Hymn 234:** Alleluia, Alleluia

Readings: Isaiah 25.6-9 O.T. p.587

John 20.1-18 N.T. p.98

this morning's reader is Peter Wilkinson

Reader: In this is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

* **Hymn 250:** The strife is o'er

Sermon: Theology from Waitrose

followed by Silent Reflection Sermon notes are available at the back of the church and on the website

THE COMMUNION

Prayers of Intercession

Written by The Revd Erna Stevenson

* **Hymn 238:** Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

Invitation to Communion *all standing*

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

(we say together)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

be with us all evermore.



The Offertory Procession

We give thanks to God and sing:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise,

Gracious God,

We sing praises for the wonder of the empty tomb, for the gifts of life, of life that breaks the bonds of death. We sing praises for the world you have given us, for the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies and for the promise held in every seed that is sown.

Holy, holy, holy,

My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say the words:

You are holy, Lord.

As people of faith we remember all those who have gone before. People, like Moses and Miriam, leading their people to freedom; like Sarah and Abraham, seeking new life in a strange land; like Peter and Mary, finding an empty tomb and proclaiming new life beyond the cross. And we remember the life of a Special One, Jesus, Mary's child. We thank you for his coming, for his giving of himself both in life and in death showing us the depth of your love that will never let us go. We praise you for your raising him to new life with you.

**In God's name is coming
The One whom we call blessed.
Hosanna in the highest,
Praise and thanks to God.**

We thank you that on the night he was betrayed he took bread and when he had given thanks he broke it and said: 'This is my body, it is for you'. And in the same way after supper he took the cup, gave thanks and said: 'This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me'. So here and now we obey his command as we keep the feast and call to mind his death, his resurrection, his coming kingdom.

**You alone are holy,
And you alone are Lord,
And you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Come, now Spirit of Holiness, strong as the wind, gentle as a mother's arm and through the sharing of this meal, make us truly your people.

Generous God, from whom all good things come and in whom we entrust our hope and invest our dreams, hear our prayers in the name of Christ, our risen Lord. Amen

Sharing of the bread and wine

The bread and wine are brought to the congregation.

Post Communion Prayer

Your death O Lord we commemorate

Your resurrection we confess

Your final coming we await.

Christ has died

Christ has risen

Christ will come again. Hallelujah! Amen

* **Hymn 247:** Thine be the glory

* **Dismissal and Blessing with sung Amen** *All Standing*

Postlude: Heut Triumpheret Gottes Sohn BWV 630: J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Morning Coffee is served in the Church Hall after the service