

# AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH MORNING SERVICE

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Led by our ministers

Organist: Graham Nash



Welcome

Opening Responses *standing*

Minister: We come together to worship God.

**All: We come in thanksgiving and praise.**

Minister: We gather to listen out for his word.

**All: We gather to offer prayers  
for ourselves and the world.**

Minister: So, from the rising of the sun  
to the going down of the same,

**All: the Lord's name be praised.**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you** *Based on Malachi 1.11*

Hymn *From the AFC Archives*

**At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow  
Every tongue confess him King of Glory now  
'Tis the Father's pleasure, we should call him Lord,  
Who from the beginning was the Mighty Word.**

**Humbled for a season to receive a name  
From the lips of sinners unto whom he came,  
He became a witness, faithful to the last,  
And returned victorious whence from death he passed.**

**In your hearts enthrone him; there let him make new  
All that is not holy, all that is not true.  
He is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,  
Ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.**

**When this same Lord Jesus shall appear again  
In his Father's glory, there with him to reign,  
Then may we adore him, all before him bow,  
As our hearts confess him King of glory now.**

Responsive Psalm 19 – *a Psalm for Creation Season*  
(we say together the words in bold type)

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
**the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

Day after day they pour forth speech;  
**night after night they display knowledge.**

There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

**Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.**

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,

which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion,

**like a champion rejoicing to run his course.**

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;

**nothing is hidden from its heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.

**The statues of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.**

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

**The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever.

**The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous.**

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;

**they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.**

## Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

### Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50.15-21 *read by Janet Reid*

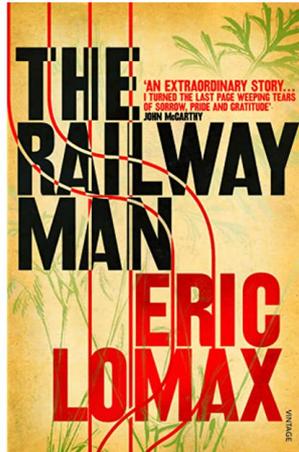
In this is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## A message from Street Kids Direct

### Introducing Today's Theme

Forgiveness: Nearly always a process



### New Testament Reading

Matthew 18.21-35

*read by Janet Reid*

In this is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Church Life Focus

Hymn *sung by The Big Sing Choir of The Jubilate Group, made available to churches during The Pandemic*

**Sing of the God who spoke  
across the void of space,  
whose word unleashed the awesome power  
that set the stars in place,  
and whose direct command  
made darkness yield to light,**

and spun the threads of time itself,  
the flow of day and night.

**Sing of the God who spoke,  
enacting all he planned:  
the shaping of the ocean depths,  
the sculpting of the land;  
and sing how life on earth  
arose at his decree -  
the common grass, the orchid rare,  
the stately, flowing tree.**

**Sing of the God whose voice  
gave countless species birth:  
unnumbered creatures, ranged across  
the landscapes of the earth;  
then sing of God's delight  
in all his hand has made:  
the vastness of the Maker's skill  
abundantly displayed.**

**Sing of the God whose care  
first formed the human race  
as creatures born to nature's realm  
yet made for Love's embrace;  
and still we hear God speak -  
the call is always there:  
to treat God's glorious handiwork  
with thoughtful, reverent care.**

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Prayer before the sermon *standing*

Minister: Gracious God, we open the bible  
and long to receive your word.

**All: Open, we pray, our minds and hearts  
to receive that word  
with all its comfort and in all its challenge.  
Amen.**

Sermon

Forgiveness: From different points of view



Hymn: Put peace into each other's hands *sung by the AFC Chancel Singers*

**Put peace into each other's hands  
and like a treasure hold it;  
protect it like a candle flame,  
with tenderness enfold it.**

**Put peace into each other's hands  
with loving expectation;  
be gentle in your words and ways,  
in touch with God's creation.**

**Put peace into each other's hands,  
like bread we break for sharing;  
look people warmly in the eye:  
our life is meant for caring.**

**As at communion, shape your hands  
into a waiting cradle;  
the gift of Christ receive, revere,  
united round the table.**

**Put Christ into each other's hands,  
he is love's deepest measure;  
in love make peace, give peace a chance  
and share it like a treasure.**

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Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercessions and Dedication *led by The Revd Heather McIntyre*

Hymn *From the AFC Archives*

**There's a wideness in God's mercy  
Like the wideness of the sea;  
There's a kindness in his justice  
Which is more than liberty.  
There is plentiful redemption  
In the blood that has been shed;  
There is joy for all the members  
In the sorrows of the Head.**

**There is grace enough for thousands  
Of new worlds as great as this;  
There is room for fresh creations  
In the Lord's unfathomed bliss.  
For the Love of God is broader  
Than the measures of our mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal  
Is most wonderfully kind.**

**But we make his love too narrow  
By false limits of our own;  
And we magnify his strictness  
With a zeal he will not own,  
If our love were but more simple  
We should take him at his word;  
And our lives would be illumined  
By the glory of the Lord.**

**Blessing** *standing*

**Recessional**

*As the organ plays we leave church, one row at a time, from the back.*

*If you wish to listen to the voluntary all the way through then please remain in your seat until the end and then leave.*