

AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH AUDIO SERVICE

Sunday 20th September 2020

Led by our ministers



AFC Fugue and Welcome

Opening Responses

Minister: We gather as the people of God in the presence of our loving Father

All: We gather as fellow pilgrims in the presence of the Living Christ

Minister: We gather as seekers after truth in the presence of God the Spirit

All: Who enlightens and comforts us.

Minister: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Hymn: *From the AFC Archives*

**And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain;
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That thou, my God, should die for me?**

**'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel-minds enquire no more.**

**He left his Father's throne above-
So free, so infinite his grace-
Emptied himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me!**

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night:
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray-
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.**

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.**

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Old Testament Reading *read by Sara Autton*
Exodus 16.11-20

Our Harvest Mission Projects 2020

Trees for Tanzania



New Hope Trust: Watford



New Testament Reading *read by Michael Autton*
Matthew 20.1-16

Church Life Focus

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

**1 God, creation comes from you,
praise and glory are your due;
through your Son all things were made
and your splendour is displayed.
thank you for the nights and days,
for the stars on which we gaze,
sun to warm and give us light,
moon to keep earth's rhythms right.**

**2 Earth proclaims your mighty hand
in the air and sea and land -
deserts, forests, rivers, streams,
snowflakes, rain and sunlight beams;
for the life-forms that abound,**

for the joys of light and sound,
for the wonders that amaze
we now bring our heartfelt praise.

3 For the apes and yaks and hares,
horses, donkeys, polar bears;
for the goats, the sheep, the whales,
and the monkeys with their tails;
for the camel and the sow,
for the chicken, bee and cow,
for the sparrow, eagle, dove,
for the dogs and cats we love.

4 For the animals, our friends,
on whom much of life depends,
for the fish within the sea,
birds of beauty flying free.
You created humankind,
gave us body, spirit, mind,
breathed in us your living breath,
promised life instead of death.

5 Lord, forgive us for our sin;
we have harmed the world we're in,
teach us all your gifts to share
that the poor may not despair.
then, as children of new birth,
in new heavens and new earth
we will worship, hearts ablaze,
joining in creation's praise,
joining in creation's praise.

Michael Baughen (b. 1930)

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Sermon

The Vine Grower



Choir Anthem: There is a Redeemer CCL 257120
There is a redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah; Holy One.
Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son
And leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah; O for sinners slain.
Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son
And leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

When I stand in glory, I will see his face
And there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.
Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son
And leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercessions and Dedication

Hymn *From the AFC Archives*

**Mighty God, while angels bless thee,
May a mortal sing thy name?
Lord of earth as well as heaven,
Thou art every creature's theme.
Lord of every land and nation
Ancient of eternal Days,
Sounded through the wide creation
Be thy just and faithful praise.**

**For the grandeur of the nature,
Grand beyond a seraph's thought;
For created works of power,
Works with skill and kindness wrought;
For thy providence that governs
Through thine empire's wide domain,
Wings an angel. Guides a sparrow,
Blessèd be thy gentle reign.**

**But they rich, the free redemption,
Dark through brightness all along-
Thought is poor and poor expression-
Who dare sing that awesome song?
Brightness of the Father's glory,
Shall thy praise unuttered lie?
Break, my tongue, such guilty silence,
Sing the Lord who came to die.**

**From the highest throne of glory,
To the cross of deepest woe,
All to ransom guilty captives,
Flow, my praise, for ever flow!
Go, return, immortal Saviour,
Leave thy footstool, take thy throne;
Thence return and reign forever,
Be the kingdom all thine own!**

Blessing and Sung Amen

Recessional