

AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH AUDIO SERVICE

Sunday 22nd November 2020

Led by our ministers



AFC Fugue and Welcome

Call to Worship

Hymn: *From the AFC Archives*

1. **Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy chosen King
through all eternity.**

2. **Crown him the Son of God,
before the worlds began:
and ye, who tread where he hath trod,
crown him the Son of Man;
who every grief hath known
that wrings the human breast,
and takes and bears them for his own,
that all in him may rest.**

3. **Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save:
his glories now we sing
who died, and rose on high;
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that we may die.**

4. **Crown him the Lord of Love!
Behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me:
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

First Reading *read by Mary Simons*
Ephesians 1.15-23

Responsive Reading Psalm 46

Minister: God is our refuge and our strength,
An ever present help in trouble.

**ALL: Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the sea,
Though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.**

Minister: There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

**ALL: God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.**

Minister: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
He lifts his voice, and the earth melts.

**ALL: The Lord Almighty is with us
The God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Minister: Come and see the works of the Lord,

**ALL: He makes the wars cease to the ends of the earth;
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear,
He burns the shields with fire.**

Minister: Be still and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.

**ALL: The Lord Almighty is with us;
The God of Jacob is our Fortress.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Introduction to the Theme

Second Reading *read by Mary Simons*
Matthew 25.31-46

Church Life Focus

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

**I Now we hear creation groaning
like a prisoner held in chains,
yearning for unbridled freedom,
healing from its present pains:
for the cosmos is in labour,
bearing worlds as yet unknown,
incomplete without the people
God has chosen as his own.**

**2 But the saints are also groaning
with this aching hope we bear;
through involvement in life's turmoil,
Jesus' wounds are ours to share:
in the church, the world's frustrations
can be focused, felt and healed,
as a better, new creation
is foreshadowed and revealed.**

**3 So we find, in all this anguish,
God's intentions are expressed,
for the groans the Spirit utters
are the deepest and the best:
and those painful, strong emotions
human words can never tell -
God the Spirit, who evokes them,
now interprets them as well.**

**4 Since this fallen, splendid cosmos
is the womb to greater things,
and since we, in all our frailty,
serve the broken King of kings,
teach us, God, to hear your Spirit
whose maternal, wordless call
is the heart of our vocation
and the truest prayer of all.**

Martin Leckebusch CCL 257120

Sermon: The Inner Eye of Hope

Choir Anthem (Text: Nick Fawcett; Music: Franz Schubert, arr. Christopher Tambling)

Sing to the Lord, sing aloud of his majesty
Lift up your hearts, at his feet your praises bring.
Tell of his love and faithfulness, graciousness, holiness;
Let all the world his great name bless; worship now the King!

Sing to the Lord, sing aloud of his glory!
Lift up your souls, let our Sovereign God be adored.
Tell of his power and righteousness, gentleness, steadfastness;
Let everyone his name confess, worship now the Lord!

To the Lord sing praise!

Prayers of Intercessions and Dedication *led by Sara Autton*

Hymn *From the AFC Archives*

**Go forth and tell! O church of God awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take:
Proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord and King,
That all the world his glorious praise may sing.**

**Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
He will in grace respond to those who call;
How shall they call if they have never heard
The gracious invitation of his word?**

**Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide;
Share God's good gifts - let no one be denied;
Live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
Your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.**

**Go forth and tell! O Church of God arise!
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
Go till all nations his great name adore
And serve him, Lord and King for evermore!**

Blessing and Sung Amen

Recessional