

**AMERSHAM FREE
CHURCH
AUDIO SERVICE**
Sunday 2nd May 2021
Led by The Revd Ian Green



AFC Fugue and Welcome

Opening Responses

Minister: O God, open our lips,
All: And our mouths shall declare your praise.
Minister: O God, open our eyes,
All: That we may behold your presence.
Minister: O God, open our ears,
All: That we may hear your call.
Minister: O God, open our hearts,
All: That we may respond to your love.
Minister: O God, open our lives,
All: That we may rejoice in all that has been born of you.
Minister: The Lord be with you
All: And also with you.

Hymn *from the AFC Archives*

1. O worship the King all glorious above
O gratefully sing His power and His love
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days
Pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.
2. O tell of His might, O sing of His grace
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
3. The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old,
Hath stablished it fast by an ancient decree
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.
4. Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain
And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.
5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail,
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender, redeemer and friend.
6. O measureless might, ineffable love!

While angels delight to hymn thee above;
the humbler creation shall struggle to raise
with true adoration, their songs to thy praise.

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

First Reading: Acts 8.26-40 *read by John Munro*

In this is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Church Life Focus

Choir Anthem

This joyful Eastertide; away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain,
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen!*

Death's flood has lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.

*Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain,
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen!*

New Testament Reading: John 15.1-8 *read by John Munro*

In this is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn

- 1 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4, I will weep when you are weeping
when you laugh I'll laugh with you,
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven

we shall find such harmony;
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you
let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too. CCL257120

Responsive Prayer:

Minister: Gracious God
All: May your Living Word
come to us afresh this morning
Minister: So, touch, we pray our minds and hearts
with your grace and truth
All: Through Christ our Lord
and in the power of your Spirit. Amen

Sermon

Believing and Belonging

Hymn: *from the Jubilate Singers made available to the churches during the Pandemic*

1 Born in song!
God's people have always been singing.
Born in song!
Hearts and voices raised.
So today we worship together;
God alone is worthy to be praised.

2 Praise to God!
For he is the one who has made us.
Praise to God!
We his image bear.
Heaven and earth are full of his glory;
let creation praise him everywhere.

3 Christ is King!
He left all the glory of heaven.
Christ is King!
Born to share in our pain;
crucified, for sinners atoning,
risen, exalted, soon to come again.

4 Sing the song!
God's Spirit is poured out among us.
Sing the song!
He has made us anew.
Every member part of the Body;
given his power, his will to seek and do.

5 Tell the world!
All power to Jesus is given.
Tell the world!
He is with us always.
Spread the word, that all may receive him;



every tongue confess and sing his praise.

6 Then the end!

Christ Jesus shall reign in his glory.

Then the end

of all earthly days.

Yet above the song will continue;

all his people still shall sing his praise.

© Brian Hoare/Jubilate Hymns Ltd CCL 257120

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercessions and Dedication led by Hazel Richardson

Hymn

1. Good Christians all rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. The Lord of Life is risen for aye:
bring flowers of song to strew his way;
Let all the world rejoice and say:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. Praise we in songs of victory
that Love, that Life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
4. Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the Life restored:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessing

Recessional