AMERSHAM FREE
CHURCH
MORNING SERVICE
Sunday 28th March 2021
Palm Sunday
Led by our ministers
Organist: Graham Nash

AFC Fugue and Welcome

Opening Responses standing from Psalm 118

Minister: This is the day on which the Lord has acted,
All: a day for us to exult and rejoice.
Minister: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
All: for his love endures for ever.
Minister: Blessed is he, who enters in the name of the Lord
All: we bless you from the house of the Lord.
Minister: The stone which the builders rejected
All: has become the main corner-stone.
Minister: This is the Lord’s doing;
All: it is wonderful in our eyes.

Minister: The Lord be with you
All: and also with you.

Hymn sung by The Chancel Singers At last! The city comes in sight (John Campbell; tune: R&S 209)

1. At last! The city comes in sight
   where human wrong must fight with right;
   where God in Christ will challenge all
   to stop, and turn, and hear his call.

2. What angels sang near Bethlehem
   friends now shout to Jerusalem;
   what lonely shepherd heard in fear
   is now proclaimed for all to hear.

3. “God bless the King who comes this way
   as God’s own presence here, today!
   Let peace from heaven come and reign;
   and God’s true glory shine again!”

4. But will the city heed these cries?
   Will people welcome - or despise?
   Will hearts be opened, lives made new -
   or callous selfishness show through?

5. Must cities always crush the weak
refuse them any chance to speak?
Must human greed and human pride
ensure that Christ is crucified?

6. To us, today, Christ comes once more
the God of challenge at our door -
now we must stop, and turn, and hear;
receive new life while God is near!

Opening Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Old Testament Reading: Zechariah 9.9-10 read by Valerie Edis

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

Introduction to the Theme: What sort of leader was Jesus?

New Testament Reading: Mark 11.1-11 read by Valerie Edis

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

Church Life Focus

Hymn: Sung by The Chancel Singers When my love to God grows weak (Tune: St. Bees R&S 371)

1. When my love to God grows weak
when for deeper faith I seek,
then in thought, I go to thee,
Garden of Gethsemane.

2. There I walk amid the shades
while the lingering twilight fades;
see that suffering, friendless one,
weeping, praying there alone.

3. When my will to love grows weak,
then for stronger faith I seek,
Hill of Calvary, I go
to thy scenes of fear and woe.

4. There behold his agony,
suffered on the bitter tree;
see his anguish, see his faith,
Love triumphant still in death.

5. Then to life I turn again,
learning all the worth of pain;
learning all the might that lies
in a full self-sacrifice.

6. And I praise with firmer faith
Christ, who vanquished pain and death;
and to Christ enthroned above
raise my song of selfless love.

Prayer before the sermon standing
Minister: Lord God –
our prayer is that the written word
will point us to Christ, the Living Word.
All: So, in his name we pray
and for his voice we listen. Amen.

Sermon: The Triumph of Love

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

1 Christ, grant me grace to let you wash my feet,
and washed, to let them stand or walk or run;
as over mountain, desert, city street,
they bring good news - unlikely victory won.

2 Christ, grant me grace to wash another's feet,
and count it cause of neither shame nor boast
nor think some merit makes my work complete
since those forgiven most will love the most.

3 Christ, grant me grace to follow and believe
in you who loved me to the bitter end;
learn to receive you, as I shall receive
those you have sent, and those you will yet send.

4 Christ, grant me grace to live, obey and love,
sent to your world, commanded by your word:
content if you direct my every move,
your name be known, your kingly voice be heard. © Christopher Idle / Jubilate Hymns CCL 257120

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercessions and Dedication led by Janet Reid

Hymn Sung by The Chancel Singers R&S 208

1. All glory, laud and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!
Thou art the King of Israel
thou David’s royal Son,
who in the Lord’s name cometh
the King and Blessed One.

2. The company of angels
are praising thee on high,
and mortal flesh and all things
created, make reply.
The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before thee we present.

3. To thee before thy Passion
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee now high exalted
our melody we raise.
Thou didst accept their praises
accept the prayers we bring
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King.

4. All glory, laud and honour
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

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.