

AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH MORNING SERVICE

Sunday 2nd May 2021
Led by The Revd Ian Green
Organist: Richard Brazier



Amen 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 *Sung by The AFC Chancel Singers R & S No. 606*

1. We sing the praise of him who died,
of him who died upon the cross;
the sinner's hope though all deride,
for this we count the world but loss.
2. Inscribed upon the cross we see
in shining letters, 'God is Love';
he bears our sins upon the tree;
he brings us mercy from above.
3. The cross! It takes our guilt away;
It holds the fainting spirit up;
It cheers with hope the gloomy day
and sweetens every bitter cup.
4. It makes the coward spirit brave,
and nerves the feeble arm for fight;
it takes the terror from the grave,
and gilds the bed of death with light.
5. The balm of life, the cure of woe,
the measure and the pledge of love,
the sinner's refuge here below,
the angels theme in heaven above.

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

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

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

Hymn *sung by the AFC Chancel Singers*

1. In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone - who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The love of God was glorified -
For every sin on him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.
3. There in the ground his body lay
Light of the World by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me!
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand,
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand! *Stuart Townend and Keith Getty 2001 CCL 257120.*

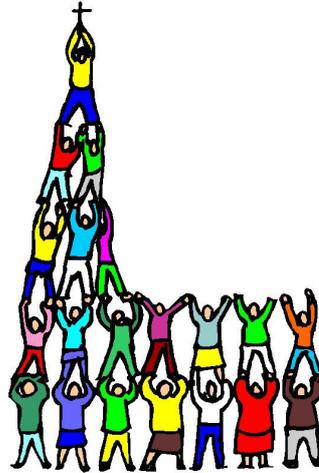
Prayer before the Sermon *standing*

Minister: Gracious God

All: May your Living Word

Minister: come to us afresh this morning
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



Prayers of Intercessions and Dedication *recorded by Hazel Richardson*

Hymn: *sung by the AFC Chancel Singers Tune: Song 46*

1. Draw nigh and take the body of the Lord
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured.
2. Saved by that body, and that holy blood,
with souls refreshed we render thanks to God.
3. Salvation's giver, Christ the only Son,
by His dear blood the cross and victory won,
4. Offered was he for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and himself the priest.
5. Approach ye then with faithful hearts sincere,
and take the pledge of thy salvation here.

Holy Communion

The Peace *all standing*

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you
All: and also with you.
Minister: We say for one another:
All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore.



The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: Therefore with all your people
in heaven and on earth we worship
in the resounding hymn of your glory:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

*Sung by
The Chancel singers*

Words of Institution

Receiving bread and wine

Agnus Dei *sung by The Chancel Singers*

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace



Post Communion Prayer

Self-giving God,
With thanksgiving we have remembered
and celebrated your love in Jesus.
May your cross and resurrection
constantly speak into our lives and sustain our living.
So, sent out in the strength of the Spirit
may your generosity and kindness
become the reality of our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn *sung by The Chancel Singers R & S 257*

1. The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with victory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty victor's brow.
2. The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right;
The King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal light.
3. The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love,

and grants his name to know.

4. To them the cross, with all its shame
with all its grace, is given;
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heaven.
5. They suffer with their Lord below;
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.
6. The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Blessing standing with Amen sung by The Chancel Singers

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.

Please do not linger inside the building as you leave. Outside, in the car park, we observe the Rule of Six as we greet each other.