



# AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 Advent Sunday  
MORNING WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

led by our Ministers

*Organist: Richard Brazier*

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*All who love and follow our Lord Jesus Christ are invited to receive communion.  
If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine please let them pass by without embarrassment.  
If you are able please stand for those parts of the service marked with an asterisk (\*)*

## GOD INVITES US TO WORSHIP

**\*Hymn 126:** O come, O come, Immanuel *omit verse 8*

*During which the Bible is placed in the pulpit*



**Opening Responses** *from Iona:*

Minister: In our watching and our waiting

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Minister: In our hopes and in our fears

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Minister: In our homes and in our world

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come, bless us and surprise us in our watching and waiting

Minister: The Lord be with you

**All: And also with you.**

**Prayers of Praise and Confession, Lord's Prayer**

**Welcome and Notices**

## WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

**Lighting of the Advent Candle & All Age Talk**

Leader: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**The first candle is lit**

Leader: We dare to light a light of hope,  
despite the darkness of our world.

In the face of cruelty and suffering,  
of oppression and inequality,  
we dare to hope!

Leader: In a world that sometimes seems hopeless,

**All: we dare to hope!**

Leader: With the patriarchs of old,

**All; we dare to hope!**

Leader: We light a candle in the darkness,

**All: we dare to hope!**

Leader: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

\* **Hymn 141:** Make way, wake way

*We remain standing for a Prayer of Blessing for Junior Church and then children and young people leave for their groups. Babies and toddlers are welcome in The Crèche.*

**Readings:** I Corinthians 1.3-9 NT p.145

Mark 13.24-end NT p43 *this morning's reader is Sue Wale*

Reader: In this is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon:** Continuous Revelation

*sermon notes are available at the back of the church and on the website followed by Silent Reflection*

**The Offering** is received

\* **Hymn:** Light of her life *Tune: R&S 416: Tallis's Canon*

**1 Light of her life, meets Mary's gaze;  
bursting with pride she offers praise.  
God's special gift, source of such joy  
there in the straw, her precious boy.**

**2 Light in the fields floods from the sky;  
angels announce news from on high.  
Shepherds amazed, hurriedly run -  
there in the hay, God's only Son.**



**3 Light of a star, leading the way,  
calling for faith, wise men obey.  
Gifts of great price, humbly they bring,  
meant for a child, fit for a king.**

**4 Light of the world sent from above,  
sharing such peace, showing such love.  
Coming to bless, coming to save -  
there at the tomb life from the grave.**

**5 Light for my path filling my soul,  
reaching within, making me whole.  
Jesus is born, lift up your voice!  
With all our hearts, let us rejoice!**

*Nick Fawcett (born 1957) CCL 257120*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

# **THE COMMUNION**

**\*Hymn 140:** O Lord, how shall I meet you

## **\*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 Offertory Procession**

Minister: We give thanks to God and sing:

**All: Praise God from whom  
all blessings flow,  
praise him, all creatures here below.  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication followed by Invitation to Communion**

## 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 sing  
the triumphant hymn of your glory:

**All:** Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
*Sung: 13 in* God of power and might,  
*hymn book* 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.



## Words of Institution

### Sharing of the bread and wine

*The bread and wine are brought to the congregation. The wine is served first – please put your glass in the bookrack. Once all have been served we eat and drink together.*

### Post Communion Prayer

Minister: Mysterious God, confounding our expectations  
meeting us where we least expect to find you  
**All: Stay with us now.**  
Minister: Child of the manger,  
healing our pain, sharing our weakness  
**All: Stay with us now.**  
Minister: Source of life, birth of God within our own experience  
**All: Stay with us now.**  
Minister: Stay with us in our frailty, stay with us on our journey  
**All: Walk beside us and live, we pray, within us.**

**\*Hymn 181:** Of the Father's love begotten

**\*Dismissal and Blessing with sung Amen** *All Standing*

*Join us for coffee, tea or a cold drink in the Alfred Ellis Hall  
where the Fairtrade stall is open.*