



AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 2nd December 2018 Advent Sunday
MORNING WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

led by our Ministers

Organist: Richard Brazier

*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: Jeremiah 33.14-16 OT p.662

Luke 21.25-35 NT p72

Reader: In this is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon: 'There will once more be sheepfolds...

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 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.**

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 740:** Tell out my soul

***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.*