



# AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2019 Epiphany  
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 184: As with gladness**

*During which the Bible is placed in the pulpit*



### **Call to Worship** *concluding with the greeting:*

Minister:        The Lord be with you

**All:**             **And also with you**

## **Opening Prayers of Praise and Confession**

## **Welcome and Notices**

## WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

### \* **New Year Act of Dedication**

Minister:        Covenant God, strengthening and saving God,  
we claim the promises of your Word  
and ask for your help.

**All:**             **By the power of your Holy Spirit  
make bold our vision of your kingdom.  
Strengthen us to do your will and help us to  
walk together in your way.  
Pour down your Spirit, that the promises we make this day,  
may be an offering of love, our duty and delight,  
and that by our life together we may glorify you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

Minister: Since we are surrounded by so great a crowd of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin which clings so closely and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

**All: This day we give ourselves again to the Lord and to each other to be bound together in fellowship, for the sake of the mission and glory of God. Celebrating our shared life, we commit ourselves to belonging and working together, in our congregation, with our neighbouring churches and in society. We pledge all that we have and all that we are to fulfil God's purposes of love.**

**\* Hymn 549:** One more step along the world I go

*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:** Isaiah 60.1-6 OT p.620

Matthew 2.1-12 NT p.1 *This morning's reader is Kevin Wood*

Reader: In this is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** *followed by Silent Reflection*

*Sermon notes are available as you leave and on the church website*

**\*Hymn:** In Bethlehem *Tune R&S 153 Sussex Carol*

**1. In Bethlehem, with Jesus' birth, the God of heaven came to earth;  
a babe who left us free to choose;  
a gift of love we could refuse.**

**What will we do? What will we say?**

**Will we welcome our God today?**

**2. First unknown strangers saw a star, and seeking, travelled from afar.  
Responding to its sign and call,**

**they journeyed, searched, then gave their all.**

**Will we, with them, both kneel and pray?**

**Will we welcome our God today?**

**3. King Herod found this quite absurd  
although he had the prophet's word;  
defensive, wary, trapped by fear,  
he ordered slaughter far and near.  
Will we, like him, push you away?  
Will we welcome our God today?**



**4. This challenge still confronts us all:  
this Christmas will we heed your call?  
Will we be open to your care,  
or fight against the love you share?  
God, help us now, that we may say,  
'We will welcome our God today!'**

John Campbell CCL 257120

## **Prayers of Intercession**

\* **Hymn 217:** When I survey

## **THE 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 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**

**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, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

*Sung: 13 in  
hymn book*

**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.*

## Distribution

### Post Communion Prayer

**All: O God who gives all that is good,  
You have blessed the food and drink  
we have received at your table.  
As we now depart, may your grace  
and laughter shine upon us,  
your kindness be on our tongues,  
your peace rest within us  
and your love reign in our hearts. Amen**

**\*Hymn 183:** Brightest and best

**\*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.*