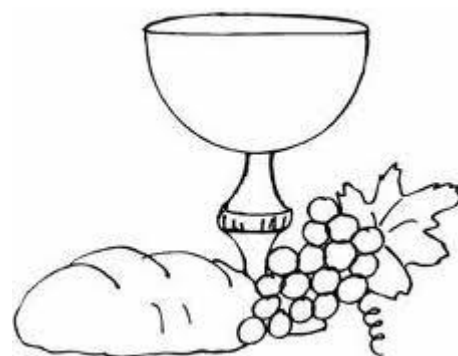


AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Audio Service

Holy Communion: 19th April 2020



Welcome and Introduction

Scripture Sentences

words from Matthew 27

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God'.

Invitation

In the season of Easter we gather in our homes with bread and wine. We come to God uniting with each other at this time as we remember the self-giving love of God for us upon the cross in the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we think of the cross we give thanks for the commitment shown by Jesus to truth, even when it was unpopular.

And as we eat and drink we recall the willingness of Jesus to forgive, teaching people a different way: a way of service, reconciliation and new beginnings.

During these spring days as we are separated for a time, yet united by the Holy Spirit through the supportive fellowship of prayer, we continue to celebrate the life of God that blesses our life through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So we come, seeking truth, longing for light and trusting in love, as we now remember Jesus in bread and wine.

Hymn: Be known to us in breaking bread

Be known to us in breaking bread,
but do not then depart;
Saviour, abide with us, and spread
thy table in our heart.

There sup with us in love divine;
thy body and thy blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine,
be our immortal food.

(James Montgomery 1771-1854)

Sonnet: Easter Dawn by Malcolm Guite

He blesses every love which weeps and grieves
And now he blesses hers who stood and wept
And would not be consoled, or leave her love's
Last touching place, but watched as low light crept
Up from the east. A sound behind her stirs
A scatter of bright birdsong through the air.
She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,
Or recognise the Gardener standing there.
She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why,
Why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light
That brightens as she chokes out her reply
'They took my love away, my day is night'
And then she hears her name, she hears Love say
The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

Sursum Corda Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Sanctus Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Therefore, with all your people in heaven and on earth
we sing the resounding hymn of your glory.
**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.**

Accalmation **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

The Peace The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you

Institution

On the night on which he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus, after he had given thanks took the bread and broke it saying: This is my body which is given for you, do this as often as you eat it in remembrance of me. That same night after supper he took the cup saying: This cup is the cup of the new covenant. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Reception

The body of Christ was given for you...

The blood of Christ was shed for you...

We take a moment of quiet prayer as reflective music is played

Concluding Prayer

O God, we give you grateful thanks for all
that you have given us in this sacred meal.
May our lives show the signs that love is possible,
grace is believable and compassion can be the way of life.
We pray in your name. Amen

Blessing

Recessional: Lo, in the grave he lay: *played by Ian on the AFC organ last week*