

# AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

## Audio Service for 26<sup>th</sup> April 2020 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Introductory Music:** *The AFC Amen Fugue*

**Opening Responses** *led by Sara and Michael*

In the praising and adoring

**Christ is among us.**

In the faith and in the doubting

**Christ is among us.**

In the joining and the sharing

**Christ is among us.**

In all places and in this moment

**Christ is among us.**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

**Hymn:** Sing Praise to the Lord *28<sup>th</sup> April 2013*

*Sing praise to the Lord! Sing praise in the height;  
rejoice in his word, blest angels of light;  
high heavens adore him, by whom you were made,  
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.*

*Sing praise to the Lord! All people on earth,  
in tuneful accord, sing praise for new birth;  
praise him who has brought you his grace from above;  
praise him who taught you to sing of his love.*

*Sing praise to the Lord! all things that give sound;  
each jubilant chord, re-echo around;  
loud organs, his glory forthtell in deep tone,  
and sweet harp, the story of what he has done.*

*Sing praise to the Lord! Thanksgiving and song  
to him be outpoured all ages along;  
for love in creation, for heaven restored;  
for grace and salvation, sing praise to the Lord.*



This week's flowers have  
been provided by Sara  
Autton

**Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer:** led by *The Revd Erna Stevenson: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

**Psalm 95.1-7** read by *The Revd Heather McIntyre*

**Anthem:** Behold the Man *sung by The Choir*

**Gospel:** Luke 24.13-35 *read by Mike Jones on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

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

**Reflective Music:** *An improvisation on the Stuart Townsend hymn: Resurrection Song*

*See what a morning, gloriously bright  
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;  
Folded the grave-clothes  
Tomb filled with light,  
As the angels announce Christ is risen!  
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,  
Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,  
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives,  
Christ is risen from the dead!*

*See Mary weeping: 'Where is He laid?  
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;  
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name:  
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!  
The voice that spans the years,  
Speaking life, stirring hope,  
Bringing peace to us,  
Will sound till He appears,  
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!*

*One with the Father, Ancient of Days,  
Through the Spirit  
Who clothes faith with reality,  
Honour and blessing, glory and praise  
To the King crowned  
With power and authority!  
And we are raised with Him,  
Death is dead, love has won  
Christ has conquered;  
And we shall reign with Him,  
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!*



**Talk:** Emmaus – Walking at the ‘Speed of Love’

**Hymn:** I know that my Redeemer lives 21<sup>st</sup> April 2013



*I know that my Redeemer lives!  
What comfort this assurance gives!  
He lives, who once lived on the earth,  
Who through his death now brings new birth.*

*He lives triumphant from the grave;  
What joy, eternally to save!  
He lives to bless me with his love,  
to plead for me in heaven above.*

*He lives to help in time of need;  
what gifts, my hungry soul to feed!  
He lives, and grants me daily breath  
and leads me on to conquer death.*

*He lives, my wise and constant friend,  
what kindness guards me to the end!  
He lives, and while he lives I'll sing  
Jesus, my Prophet, Priest and King.*

*He lives: all glory to his name!  
What love, unchangeably the same!  
What joy the blest assurance gives.  
I know that my Redeemer lives!*

Samuel Medley (1738-99)

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession:**

Written by The Revd Erna Stevenson and spoken by Norma Jenns

Redeeming God,  
God of the Resurrection and new Life,

Thank you for lifting our spirits through this act of worship. Thank you that through it the sacred stories of old can come to us with fresh meaning. Thank you for showing us that, the plight of so many of our friends, families and tens of thousands of other people in the current crisis, echo the grief and bewilderment of those disciples on the Emmaus road. That, like them, we too can discover you right beside us, walking with us into the darkness of the night, illuminating it with your presence. Thank you for the new light you shed on familiar things and for leading us to a deeper understanding of you, of each other and of your beautiful world around us. So, we ask you:

**Stay with us Lord that we may not lose our way.**

As we are reminded of the inter-connectedness of all life we keep praying for those we normally take for granted: for loving, supportive family members and good neighbours; for those in the NHS and in the other caring professions rendering sacrificial service beyond

the call of duty; for supermarket staff and refuse collectors, for mail deliverers and police officers, for bus drivers and train drivers; for farmers and energy providers; for teachers and home educators. Give them the strength and understanding, the perseverance and the compassion they need.

**Stay with them Lord that they may not lose their way.**

We think of the leaders of our nation and indeed all the leaders of the world, who have the heavy responsibility of guiding their people through this crisis. We particularly pray for our parliament, as they reconvene after the Easter recess whilst coping with the challenges of social distancing. Help them to learn from each other and from earlier mistakes,

**Stay with them Lord that they may not lose their way.**

Our hearts go out to all those, who could not celebrate Easter this year because Good Friday dominates their lives. Those, for whom the daily announced death toll caused by *covid 19* is more than statistics, it marks the loss of loved and cherished family members, close friends or working colleagues. Comfort them in their grief and

**Stay with them Lord that they may not lose their way.**

We pray for our church family here at Amersham Free Church. We give thanks for our leaders and office bearers as they work so hard to keep us together in these tough times. And we thank you for all the little services we, as members are able to provide for each other trying to overcome our enforced isolation. We particularly pray for Pam Pulford after the loss of her husband Keith last week and for the family of Catherine Dolman, who also died on Tuesday. We shall miss them both as deeply loved and respected members of our community. We pray too for Isabel Lang who this week has lost both her mother and sister in law. We ask you to uphold and strengthen those who mourn and

**Stay with them Lord that they may not lose their way.**

Finally, we pray for ourselves. As the days and weeks of the 'lockdown' stretch out ahead of us, we thank you for those among us who have recovered from the virus and we ask you to keep your light of hope firmly before us all. Help us to remember those near and far, whose situation is far worse than ours and help us to find ways of supporting them. Let us all feel your resurrection power and whatever the future holds

**Stay with us Lord that we may not lose our way.**

We offer our prayers in the name of the risen Christ,  
Amen

**Hymn:** Jesus lives 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013

*Jesus lives! Thy terrors now  
can, O death, no more appal us;  
Jesus lives! By this we know  
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us. Alleluia!*



*Jesus lives! For us he died;  
hence may we, to Jesus living,  
pure in heart and act abide,  
praise to him and glory giving: Alleluia!*

*Jesus lives! Our hearts know well  
naught from us his love shall sever;  
life, nor death, nor powers of hell  
part us now from Christ for ever: Alleluia!*

*Jesus lives! Henceforth is death  
entrance -gate of life immortal;  
this shall calm our trembling breath,  
when we pass its gloomy portal: Alleluia!*

*Jesus lives! To him the throne  
over all the world is given;  
may we go where he is gone,  
live and reign with him in heaven. Alleluia!*

**Blessing** offered by *The Revd Ian Green*

**Sung Amen** *1<sup>st</sup> May 2011*

**Organ Recessional:** *Eric Williams: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011*

