

AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Audio Service for 10th May 2020 5th Sunday of Easter

Introductory Music: *The AFC Amen Fugue*

Opening Responses *from Iona led by Janet and Charis Gray*

Jesus calls us here to meet him
as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence,
where his people live and care,
praise the God who keeps his promise,
praise the Son who calls us friends,
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.
The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Hymn: Our God, our help 8.11.15 *Organist Anna LeHair*

*Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:*

*Under the shadows of thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
An our defence is sure*

*Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame;
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same*

*A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like and evening gone;
Short as the watches of the night
Before the rising sun*

*Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all our years away,
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day*

*Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.*



This week's flowers have
been provided by
Sara Autton

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer: *led by The Revd Erna Stevenson:*

Psalm 46 *read by Janet and Charis Gray*

God is our refuge and strength,

A very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear,

Even though the earth be removed,

And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

³Though its waters roar and be troubled,

Though the mountains shake with its swelling.

⁴There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God,

The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;

God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.

⁶The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved;

He uttered His voice, the earth melted.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD,

Who has made desolations in the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;

He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;

He burns the chariot in the fire.

¹⁰Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations,

I will be exalted in the earth!

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;

The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Anthem: How great the wisdom and the love

Text: Eliza R. Snow, 1804–1887 Music: Thomas McIntyre, 1833–1914

1. *How great the wisdom and the love
That filled the courts on high
And sent the Saviour from above
To suffer, bleed, and die!*
2. *His precious blood he freely spilt;
His life he freely gave,
A sinless sacrifice for guilt,
A dying world to save.*
3. *He marked the path and led the way,
And ev'ry point defines
To light and life and endless day
Where God's full presence shines.*
4. *How great, how glorious, how complete
Redemption's grand design,
Where justice, love, and mercy meet
In harmony divine!*

A Prayer for VE Day 75

**Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.
Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom;
give us courage;
give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always.
Amen.**

Gospel: Acts 7.55-8.1 *read by Andrew Merrifield on 13th May 2017*

⁵⁴This touched them on the ears,
they ground their teeth with fury. ⁵⁵But
Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, and
gazing intently up to heaven, saw the
glory of God, and Jesus standing at God's
right hand. ⁵⁶'Look!' he said. 'I see the
heavens opened and the Son of Man stand-
ing at the right hand of God.' ⁵⁷At this they
gave a great shout, and stopped their ears;
they made a concerted rush at him,
⁵⁸threw him out of the city, and set about
stoning him. The witnesses laid their coats
at the feet of a young man named Saul.
⁵⁹As they stoned him Stephen called out,
'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰He fell on
his knees and cried aloud, 'Lord, do not
hold this sin against them,' and with that
8 he died. ¹Saul was among those who
approved of his execution.

Hymn: There's a wideness in God's mercy *Organist: Eric Williams*

*There's a wideness in God's mercy
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice
That is more than liberty.
There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.*

*There is grace enough for thousands
Of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations
In the Lord's unfathomed bliss.
For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of our mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.*

*But we make his love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify his strictures
With a zeal he will not own.
If our love were but more simple
We should take him at his word;
And our lives would be illumined
By the glory of the Lord.*

Talk: When God's future infuses our present

Reflective Music: *Make me a Channel of your Peace for VE Day 75*
arranged by Matthew Green CCL257120

*Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord
And where there's doubt, true faith in You*

*Oh Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul*

*Make me a channel of Your peace
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light
And where there's sadness, ever joy*



Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession for this Easter Season: *led by The Revd Heather McIntyre*

Hymn: Lord for the years *15.11.15 Organist Tom Torley*

*Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.*

*Lord, for that Word, the Word of life which fires us,
Speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the Word, receive your people's praise.*

*Lord for our land, in this our generation,
Spirits pressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
For young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.*

*Lord, for our world, when we disown and doubt you,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without you;
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.*

*Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
Past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone!*

Blessing *offered by The Revd Erna Stevenson*

Sung Amen

Organ Recessional

