

# AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

## Audio Service for 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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

**Opening Responses** *led by Ruth and Hamilton Law*

We have come together to worship God.

**We gather in his name to sing his praise.**

We come as pilgrims on a journey.

**As Seekers after Truth travelling hopefully.**

We come in the name of him  
who guides and directs our footsteps.

**We meet in the name of Jesus,**

**The Way, The Truth and the Life.**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

**Hymn:** When morning gilds the skies

*When morning gilds the skies,*

*My heart awaking cries*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Alike at work and prayer*

*To him I would repair:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*When sleep her balm denies,*

*My silent spirit sighs:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*When evil thoughts molest,*

*With this I shield my breast:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Does sadness fill my mind?*

*A solace here I find:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Or fades my earthly bliss?*

*My comfort still is this:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Let earth's wide circle round*

*In joyful notes resound:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Let air and sea and sky*

*From depth to height reply:*

*May Jesus Christ be praised!*



This week's flowers have  
been provided by  
Beryl and Ray Cockerill

*Be this, while life is mine,  
My canticle divine:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this the eternal song,  
Through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!*

**Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer:** *led by The Revd Erna Stevenson: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016*

*Congregational prayer by The Revd Roberta Rominger, former URC General Secretary*

**Love: no conditions apply,  
We praise you, gracious God, for this your first word to us.  
So much follows,  
A Jesus shaped obedience,  
The laying down of our lives,  
Friendship that calls out more from us than we ever imagined we had to give.  
But your first word is love;  
Just as we are;  
Your delight in us; your choosing us.  
Teach us how to believe it to the depths of our being  
Then our lives will overflow into courageous goodness to change the world.  
Teach us to know ourselves loved  
Then we will no longer be afraid.  
Plant that love at the centre of our self understanding  
Then we will discover the capacity to love one another.  
Not through the veneer of our niceness,  
But with the power of resurrection.           Amen.**

**Psalm 19** *led by Ruth and Hamilton Law*

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
**the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

Day after day they pour forth speech;  
**night after night they display knowledge.**

There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.  
**Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.**

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,  
which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion,  
**like a champion rejoicing to run his course.**

It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;  
**nothing is hidden from its heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.  
**The statues of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.**

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.  
**The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.**

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold;  
**they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.**

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,  
**O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

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

**Anthem:** O praise God in his holiness Psalm 150 arr. John Wheildon

*O praise God in his holiness, praise him in the firmament of his power!  
Praise him in his noble acts, praise him according to his excellent greatness.  
Praise him in the sound of the trumpets, praise him upon the lute and harp.  
Praise him in the cymbals and dances, praise him upon the strings and pipe,  
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.*

**Gospel: Acts 17.22-31** read by Christine Standring

**Hymn:** Longing for light 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016: Organist Graham Nash

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
Longing for truth, we turn to you  
Make us your own, your holy people  
Light for the world to see:*

*Refrain:  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts  
Shine through the darkness  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.*

*Longing for peace, our world is troubled,  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.*

*Christ be our light!...*

*Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
Shared until all are fed.*

*Christ be our light!...*

*Longing for shelter, many are homeless,  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
Walls made of living stone.*

*Christ be our light!...*

*Many the gifts, many the people,  
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
Making your kingdom come.*

*Bernadette Farrell CCL257120*

## **Talk:** Making Connections

**Reflective Music:** *The Servant King, Graham Kendrick arranged by Matthew Green CCL257120*

*From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
Entered our world, your glory veiled;  
Not to be served but to serve,  
And give your life that we might live.  
This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.*

*Come, see his hands and his feet,  
The scars that speak of sacrifice,  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered.  
This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.*

*So let us learn how to serve,  
And in our lives enthrone him;  
Each other's needs to prefer,  
For it is Christ we're serving.  
This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.*

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession:** *led by Liz Waumsley*

**Hymn:** To God be the glory *8<sup>th</sup> March 2009*

*To God be the glory, great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
Who yielded his life in atonement for sin,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.*

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;  
And give him the glory - great things he has done!*

*O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God!  
And every offender who truly believes  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives:*

*Praise the Lord!...*

*Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
The wonder, the beauty, when Jesus we see:*

*Praise the Lord!...*

**Blessing** offered by *The Revd Erna Stevenson* 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Sung Amen**

**Organ Recessional** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2012 Organist: *Eric Williams*

