



AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 23rd March 2025 Lent 3

MORNING WORSHIP

led by The Revd Erna Stevenson and The Revd Ian Green

Organist: Edward Cross

If you are able please stand for those parts of the service marked with an asterisk ()*

GOD INVITES US TO WORSHIP

*** Hymn 95:** God is love

During which the bible is placed in the pulpit

Opening Responses

Minister: As our Lenten journey continues

All: We come together to worship our Crucified God.

Minister: We come together to listen out for God's word.

**All: We gather seeking strength
and guidance for a new week.**

Minister: For God so loved the world,

All: that he gave his beloved Son.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

Opening Prayers of Praise & Confession

during the Confession we remain seated and sing verse 3 of Hymn 217

The Lord's Prayer back cover of the hymn book

Welcome and Notices

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 227:** Were you there when they crucified my Lord

Readings: Isaiah 55.1-9 O.T. p 616

Luke 13.1-9 N.T.64

Today's reader is Anne Marshall

Reader:

In this is the word of the Lord

All:

Thanks be to God

Hymn: Come wounded healer *Tune: Slane R&S 531*

**1 Come, wounded healer, your sufferings reveal,
the scars you accepted, our anguish to heal.**

**Your wounds bring such comfort in body and soul to all who bear
torment and yearn to be whole.**

**2 Come, hated lover, and gather us near,
your welcome, your teaching, your challenge to hear:
where scorn and abuse cause rejection and pain,
your loving acceptance makes hope live again!**

**3 Come, broken victor, condemned to a cross -
how great are the treasures we gain from your loss!
Your willing agreement to share in our strife
transforms our despair into fullness of life.** *Martin Leckebusch CCL257120*

Sermon: Suspended Sentence

OUR RESPONSE

Silent reflection

***Hymn:** The 'owner' of the fig tree *Tune: Aurelia R&S 566*

**The 'owner' of the fig tree
in Jesus' fig tree tale
was clear the tree was useless
no good to him at all.
A fig tree that is fig-less
does not deserve its place
"Remove this monstrous failure,
it's just a waste of space!"**

**The Gard'ner in the story
then asked to call a halt;
what if this fig-less failure
was not the fig tree's fault?
He promised new resources,
new care, with new manure,
"Perhaps, we failed the fig tree,
let's try to find a cure!"**

**The story Jesus offers,
if we have ears to hear,
provides a heart-felt challenge
to things we may think clear;
when we think like the 'owner',
and blame, condemn, remove,
we crush all hope of justice
and shut down truth and love.**

**Today, we need this story
to help us think again,
when some are set for failure,
whilst others just condemn;
Let's reconstruct our nurture,
let's give each fig their chance,
let's show all fig trees matter,
let fruitfulness advance!**

John Miller Campbell, 16/6/20, freely available for use

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

***Presentation of the Offering**

Each week we make our gifts in a variety of ways, by placing cash or envelopes in the baskets as we enter or exit church or through direct bank giving. All these offerings are dedicated now as we sing:

**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.**

Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

***Hymn 201:** O sing a song of Bethlehem

***Dismissal and Blessing with sung Amen**



Tea and Coffee are served after the service in the Church Hall

Holy Week and Easter Service 2025

Palm Sunday 13th April 2025
Morning Worship 10.30am

Maundy Thursday 17th April 2025
Holy Communion 7.30pm

Good Friday 18th April 2025
Reflective Service 10.30am – 11.15am AFC
Open Air Service 11.30am St Michael's Square

Easter Day 20th April 2025
Holy Communion

