



# AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## MORNING WORSHIP

led by Ian Green and Liz Waumsley

*Organist: Edward Cross*

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*If you are able please stand for those parts of the service marked with an asterisk (\*)  
Prelude : Siciliana from Six Voluntaries for the Organ, composed by Geo. Greene, published 1775.*

## GOD INVITES US TO WORSHIP

### **\*Hymn 47: O worship the King**

*During which the bible is placed in the pulpit*

### **Opening Responses**

Minister: We have come together to worship God.  
**All: We gather in his name to sing his praise.**  
Minister: We come as pilgrims on a journey.  
**All: As Seekers after Truth travelling hopefully.**  
Minister: Jesus came to us and taught a message of life.  
**All: He spoke with words of authority.**  
Minister: The Lord be with you  
**All: And also with you.**

### **Prayers of Adoration and confession**

**The Lord's Prayer** back cover of the hymn book

### **Welcome and Notices**

## WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

### **Responsive Psalm**

The Psalm set for today is Psalm 111 – we use a selection of verses

Leader: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the faithful and in the congregation.  
**All: The works of the Lord are great,  
sought out by all who delight in them.**  
Leader: His work is full of majesty and honour

and his righteousness endures for ever.

**All: He appointed a memorial  
for his marvellous deeds;  
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

Leader: The works of his hands are truth and justice;  
all his commandments are sure.

**All: They stand fast for ever and ever;  
they are done in truth and equity.**

Leader: He sent redemption to his people;  
he commanded his covenant for ever;  
holy and awesome is his name.

**All: Honouring the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
a good understanding have those  
who live this way;  
God's praise endures for ever.  
Glory be to you, our God,  
Creator, Saviour and Spirit. Amen**

**Introduction to the Theme:** To the Synagogue with Jesus

**\*Hymn:** O God, you search me and you know me

**1 O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down you are before me:  
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.**

**2 You know my resting and my rising.  
You discern my purpose from afar,  
And with love everlasting you besiege me:  
In ev'ry moment of life or death, you are.**

**3 Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
You have known its meaning through and through.  
You are with me beyond my understanding:  
God of my present, my past and future too.**

**4 Although your Spirit is upon me,  
Still I search for shelter from your light.  
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:  
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.**

**5 For you created me and shaped me,  
Gave me life within my mother's womb.  
For the wonder of who I am I praise you:  
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new.**

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**Readings:** Deuteronomy 18.15-19 p.161 O.T.  
Mark 1.21-28 p.29 NT *This morning's reader is Valerie Edis*

**Reader:** In this is the word of the Lord

**All:** **Thanks be to God**

**\*Hymn 277:** How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

### **Prayer before the sermon**

**Minister:** For the Word of God in scripture

**All:** **For the Word of God among us**

**Minister:** For the Word of God within us

**All:** **Thanks be to God. Amen**

**Sermon:** Words of Authority – Actions of Love

*followed by Silent Reflection Sermon notes are available as you leave and on the church website*

## **OUR RESPONSE**

**\*Hymn 474:** Brother, sister, let me serve you

### **Prayers 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:** Help us live the love of Jesus *Tune Blaenwern R&S 95*

**Help us live the love of Jesus;  
build by love community.  
Teach us to be truly loving,  
sharing, caring, setting free.  
Let our love be rich in patience,  
showing kindness come what may,  
never petty, never jealous,  
never puffed up, Christ, we pray.**

**Share your love, which joys  
in goodness,  
longs for truth and justice too!  
So, let love persist forever;  
persevering, pulling through.  
Let our love keep faith whatever  
tests us, tries us on life's way.  
May love give us hope and patience;  
keep us close to you each day.**

**Only this is love eternal,  
love that's practical and real,  
building, bearing, caring, sharing,  
wounded, yet with pow'r to heal.  
Through this love let loose among us,  
down to earth, yet still divine,  
may we build both church and kingdom,  
faith and hope and love refine.**

*John Campbell CCL 257120*

**\*Dismissal and Blessing with sung Amen**

*Postlude : Largo from Six Voluntaries for the Organ, composed by Geo. Greene, published 1775*

*Morning Coffee is served in the Church Hall after the service*