



AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 23rd August 2026

MORNING WORSHIP

led by The Revd Ian Green and The Revd Heather McIntyre

Organist: Dominic Detre

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

GOD INVITES US TO WORSHIP

* **HYMN 74:** Praise to the Lord

During which the bible is placed in the pulpit

* **Opening Responses**

Minister: We gather as the people of God
in the presence of our loving Father

**All: We gather as fellow pilgrims
in the presence of the Living Christ**

Minister: We gather as seekers after truth
in the presence of God the Spirit

All: Who enlightens and comforts us.

Minister: The Lord is my light and my salvation;

All: the Lord is the stronghold of my life.

Minister: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Prayers of Adoration and confession& The Lord's Prayer Welcome and Notices

* **Hymn:** I the Lord of sea and sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.

**All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.**

I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them?

Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my Word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Dan Schutte (b.1947) CCL 257120

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Readings: Psalm 138 OT p.523
Matthew 16.13-20 NT p.15 *This morning's reader is Jo Smith*
Reader: In this is the word of the Lord
All: **Thanks be to God**

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

Sermon: When Faith is Still Becoming

Followed by silent reflection, sermon notes are available in the entrance pillar envelopes

OUR RESPONSE

*** Hymn:** Boldly, bravely Peter answered *R&S 178 Scarlet Ribbons*

I. Boldly, bravely Peter answered

Jesu's question "Who am I?".

"You're the Christ, God's chosen victor!"

seemed the only right reply -

having seen a thousand healings,

cures to conquer each distress,
Peter looked for certain triumph,
as the friend of this success.

2. Calmly, quietly, Jesus countered,
speaking of the Son of Man;
for us, he must be rejected,
if he would fulfil God's plan.
Only by this dying, rising,
could he rescue and release;
liberate those trapped in failure;
bring new life and joy and peace.

3. Puzzled, angry, Peter blustered,
"Lord, this simply cannot be!
Hope is growing; hearts are lifting -
you can win now, easily!"
Jesus, sadly, firmly, frankly,
put aside this man-made thought;
for us, took the way of suffering,
set his own success at naught.

4. Here we glimpse the Gospel's grandeur,
here we touch its healing power:
Jesus, driven by compassion,
goes to face his darkest hour.
Now he heads for stark betrayal,
now he knows that he must die -
spends himself to pay our ransom,
gives his life for you and I.

5. If we follow such a saviour,
we must also bear our cross;
live with sacrificial friendship -
gaining by embracing loss -
live as carers, not consumers,
daily giving all we can;
find our freedom in obedience
to this awesome Son of Man.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

led by Ian and The Revd Janet Bayly

***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: God has called us to a journey**

Tune: R & S 663 Hyfrydol

**1. God has called us to a journey,
to a never-ending quest;
always seeking new horizons,
always searching for the best.
Young and old, it makes no difference,
still the journey's just begun,
keep us looking to the future,
never dream the race is run.**

**2. Let the search for truth continue,
may its flame for ever burn -
what we know is only partial,
there is more we need to learn.
Do not fear what seems to challenge,
do not cling to what is dead.
Let the voice of God disturb you -
by the way of Christ be led.**

**3. Faith must always be evolving,
if it is to stay alive.
Never viewed as our possession,
nor a place where we arrive.
God has called us to a journey,
always asking one step more.
Trust in him and keep believing,
that he holds the best in store.**

Nick Fawcett CCL257120

***Dismissal and Blessing with sung Amen**

Morning Coffee and Tea will be served in the Church Hall after the service