



# AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025

COTHA United Service of Holy Communion

led by COTHA Clergy

Organist: Hilary Davan Wetton

*All who love and follow our Lord Jesus Christ are invited to receive communion.*

*If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, please let them pass by without embarrassment.*

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

**All: We meet in the name of Jesus,  
The Way, The Truth and the Life.**

Minister: The Lord be with you

**All: And also with you.**

### Prayers of Praise and Confession, *followed by the Lord's Prayer*

*led by The Revd Erna Stevenson*

### Welcome and Notices

## WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

**Readings:** Isaiah 62.1-5 O.T. p 622

John 2.1-11 N.T. p 79 *read by a member of Amersham Free Church*

Reader: In this is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

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

**Sermon: An Epiphany of Generous Love** *followed by silent reflection*  
*Preacher: The Revd Ian Green*

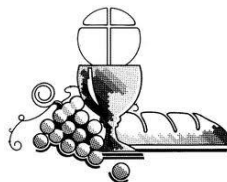
**\*Hymn 349:** I heard the voice of Jesus say

**Prayers of Intercession** *led by a member of St Michael's*

## THE COMMUNION

*led by The Revd Heather McIntyre and The Revd Debbie Oades*

**Hymn:** As friends meet round a table *Tune: Salley Gardens*



**1 As friends meet round a table  
when food has been prepared,  
in gifts from God's provision  
the joy of life is shared.  
How clear is his intention:  
enough for all to live,  
enjoying the abundance  
the Lord delights to give.**

**2 As friends meet round a table  
they take, with gratitude,  
the riches they are offered –  
companionship and food.  
In welcome and belonging  
life's pleasure is increased,  
till loving words and laughter  
make simple fare a feast.**

**3 Come, friends, around this table  
to share the holy meal:  
in bread and wine encounter  
God's love, so near, so real –  
here faith and hope are nourished  
as Jesus bids us come  
to feast on all he offers  
and find ourselves at home.** *Martin Leckebusch (b.1962) CCL257120*

## **Invitation to Communion** *all standing*

### **\*The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you.**

*(we say together)*

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**the love of God**

**and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit**

**be with us all evermore.**

## **The Offertory Procession**

We give thanks to God and 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.**

## **Prayer of Dedication**

## **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise,**

Living God, we give you thanks for you created us and gave us life. Yours is the world and all its resources; given for all to share. The whole creation combines to sing and praise: we join our voices in the resounding song:

**Holy, holy, holy,**

**My heart, my heart adores you!**

**My heart is glad to say the words:**

**You are holy, Lord.**

Merciful God, we thank you that, when we rebel against your love and bind ourselves in chains of our making, you do not abandon us. In Jesus Christ you have set us free. We thank you for his coming, for his willingness to die for the love of us; a love that will not let us go, and we praise you for his glorious resurrection to new life with you.

**In God's name is coming,  
The One whom we call blessed.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
Praise and thanks to God.**

We thank you that on the night he was betrayed he took bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and said: "This is my body; it is for you". And the same way after supper he took the cup, gave thanks and said: "This is the new covenant in my blood, Do this in remembrance of me." So, here and now we obey his command as we keep the feast and call to mind his death, resurrection and his burgeoning Kingdom among us.

**You alone are holy,  
And you alone are Lord,  
And you alone are the most high,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

We thank you gracious God that you have called us to be your people, made one by your Spirit, and we rejoice to offer this sacrifice of praise. Send that same Spirit upon us now that as we eat and drink together, we may be made ready to live for you and to do what you ask of us today and every day. We bring this prayer through Christ our Lord.

### **Sharing of the bread and wine**

*The bread and wine are brought to the congregation. Once all have been served, we eat and drink together.*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**God of Compassion,  
You have nourished us with the bread of life  
and the wine of hope.  
Send us out now with a new song in our heart  
in the power of your Spirit. Amen**

**\*Hymn 586:** All my hope on God is founded

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

*After the service please feel free to either leave during the Postlude or sit and listen to it all the way through.  
Morning Coffee is served in the Church Hall after the service*

*Go in peace*