

AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 7th December 2025

MORNING WORSHIP Advent 2

led by The Revd Heather McIntyre and The Revd Ian Green

Organist: Edward Cross

*We have a Loop System – to access please set your hearing aid to the 'T' setting.
If you are able please stand for those parts of the service marked with an asterisk (*)*

Prelude - Jean Langlais (1907-1971)

GOD INVITES US TO WORSHIP

* **Hymn 137:** Hark the glad sound *During which the bible is placed in the pulpit*

Opening Responses:

Minister: When all seemed dark,

All: God sent us a Great Light.

Minister: In Jesus Christ

All: God's Peace was born among us.

Minister: The Virgin is with child and will soon give birth to a son,

All: and she will call him Emmanuel, God is with us.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you!

Opening Praise, Confession and Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Notices

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony *using Tune: R&S 146: Away in a manger*

SONG: A candle is burning, a candle of *PEACE*;
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way:
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.



Reading: from Zechariah 9

Daughter of Zion, rejoice with all your heart;
shout in triumph, daughter of Jerusalem!
See, your King is coming to you,
his cause won, his victory gained.
He will proclaim peace to the nations.

Lighting of 2nd candle

PRAYER: Dear God, today we thank you for all who work for peace and keep the peace. We thank you that Jesus never hit back, that he was the Prince of Peace. Help us always to be peaceful in our relationships so that we may be worthy followers of Jesus. **Amen**

* **Hymn:** Light of her life *Tune: R&S 416: Tallis's Canon*

**1 Light of her life, meets Mary's gaze;
bursting with pride she offers praise.
God's special gift, source of such joy
there in the straw, her precious boy.**



**2 Light in the fields floods from the sky;
angels announce news from on high.
Shepherds amazed, hurriedly run -
there in the hay, God's only Son.**

**3 Light of a star, leading the way,
calling for faith, wise men obey.
Gifts of great price, humbly they bring,
meant for a child, fit for a king.**

**4 Light of the world sent from above,
sharing such peace, showing such love.
Coming to bless, coming to save -
there at the tomb life from the grave.**

**5 Light for my path filling my soul,
reaching within, making me whole.
Jesus is born, lift up your voice!
With all our hearts, let us rejoice!**

Nick Fawcett (born 1957) CCL 257120

Readings: Isaiah 11.1-10 O.T p.577

Matthew 3.1-12 N.T. p. 2

This morning's reader is Michael Richards

Reader: In this is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

*** Hymn:** There's a light upon the mountains

**1. There's a light upon the mountains,
and the day is at the spring,
When our eyes shall see the beauty
and the glory of the King;
Weary was our heart with waiting, and
the night-watch seemed so long,
But His triumph-day is breaking, and
we hail it with a song.**



**2. There's a hush of expectation, and
a quiet in the air;
And the breath of God is moving in
the fervent breath of prayer;
For the suffering, dying Jesus is the
Christ upon the throne,
And the travail of our spirit is the
travail of His own.**

**3. He is breaking down the barriers,
He is casting up the way;
He is calling for His angels to build
up the gates of day;
But His angels here are human, not**

the shining hosts above,
**For the drum-beats of His army are
the heart-beats of our love.**

**4. Hark! we hear a distant music, and
it comes with fuller swell;
it's the triumph song of Jesus, of
our King Emmanuel;
Zion, go now forth to meet Him,
and my soul, be swift to bring
All the sweetest and thy dearest for
the triumph of our King.**

Henry Burton CCL257120

Sermon: Prepare the Way

OUR RESPONSE

Silent Reflection

Hymn 134: On Jordan's bank *Tune: R&S 209: Winchester New*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercessions

***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 192:** Thou didst leave thy throne

***Dismissal and Blessing with sung Amen**

Sunday Lunch will be served in the Church Hall after the service