



# AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 22nd June 2025

## MORNING WORSHIP

led by The Revd Erna Stevenson and The Revd Ian Green

*Organist: Edward Cross*

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

*Prelude: Praludium - Anton Bruckner (1824-1896)*

## GOD INVITES US TO WORSHIP

**\*Hymn 115:** Let all the world in every corner sing

*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: The heavens declare the glory of God;

**All: the skies proclaim the work of his hands**

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

### A responsive reading based on Psalm 42

As the deer longs for the water brooks,  
so longs my soul for you, O God.

**My soul thirsts for God, even for the living God;  
when can I go and meet with God?**

My tears have been my bread day and night,  
while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'

**Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul:  
how I went with the multitude  
and led the procession to the house of God,**

Why are you downcast, O my soul,  
why so disturbed within me

**Put your trust in God;  
for I will yet give him thanks,  
who is my help, and my God.**

**Glory be to you, our God,  
Creator, Saviour and Spirit. Amen**

**Hymn 511:** O love that will not let me go

**Welcome and Notices**

## **WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

**Readings:**     Isaiah 65.1-8 OT p.624  
                    Luke 8.26-39 NT p. 57  
                    *This morning's reader is John Munro*

**\*Hymn: Inspired by love and anger** *Tune: Sally Gardens*

**Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,  
Informed of God's own bias, we ask him once again:  
"How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?  
How long dare vain self-interest turn prayer and pity blind?"**

**From those forever victims of heartless human greed,  
Their cruel plight composes a litany of need:  
"Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?  
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?"**

**From those forever shackled to what their wealth can buy,  
The fear of lost advantage provoke the bitter cry:  
"Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!  
Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!"**

**To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,  
We offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:  
"When will the wronged be righted? When will the kingdom  
come?  
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?"**

**God asks, "Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?  
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?  
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?  
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?"**

**Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's boat,  
Attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed and wrote,  
A saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools  
Has come to tip the balance with fishermen and fools.**

*c. Wild Goose Publications, c/o The Iona Community CCL257120*

## **Sermon**

*Followed by Silent Reflection Sermon notes are available as you leave and on the website.*

## **OUR RESPONSE**

**\*Hymn 653:** We cannot measure how you heal *Ye banks and braes*

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**Minister:** God of all goodness

**All:** **Hear our prayer**

## **\*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*

**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.**

**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.**

**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 CCL 257120*

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

*Morning Coffee is served in the Church Hall after the service -all welcome!*

*Postlude: Alla Marcia - Thomas Adams (1785-1858)*