

# AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## MORNING WORSHIP Advent 2

led by The Revds Ian Green and Heather McIntyre

*Organist: Edward Cross*

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*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:** Longing for light

**1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.**

***Refrain***

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.***

**2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.**

**3. Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.**



**4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.**

**5. Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.**

*Bernadette Farrell CCL257120*

**Readings:** Isaiah 40.1-11 O.T p.600

Mark 1.1-8 N.T. p. 29 *This morning's reader is Liz Waumsley*

**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:** Advent: Comfort and Challenge *followed by Silent Reflection.*

## OUR RESPONSE

**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 740:** Tell out my soul

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

Postlude: Theme - Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)  
*Morning Coffee will be served in the Church Hall after the service*