

AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 18th January 2026

COTHA United Service of Holy Communion

led by COTHA Clergy and Church Leaders

Organist: Richard Brazier



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 292:** When morning gilds the skies

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*
Welcome and Notices

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Readings: Isaiah 49.1-7 O.T. p 610 *read by Roland Gillott, a member of St Michael's Church*
John 1.29-42 N.T. p 78 *read by Janet Reid, a member of Amersham Free Church*

Reader: In this is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

***Hymn:** Summoned by the God who made us

by Rachel Hewitt from St Michael's. The Tune is on the back page of the service booklet.

**I Summoned by the God who made us
rich in our diversity,
gathered in the name of Jesus
richer still in unity:
let us bring the gifts that differ
and, in splendid, varied ways,
sing a new church into being
one in faith and love and praise.**

**2 Radiant risen from the water,
robed in holiness and light,
male and female in God's image,
male and female God's delight:
let us bring the gifts that differ
and, in splendid, varied ways,
sing a new church into being
one in faith and love and praise.**

**3 Trust the goodness of creation;
trust the spirit strong within,
dare to dream the vision promised,
sprung from seed of what has been:
let us bring the gifts that differ
and, in splendid, varied ways,
sing a new church into being
one in faith and love and praise.**

**4 Bring the hopes of every nation;
bring the art of every race.
Weave a song of peace and justice;
let it sound through time and space.
Let us bring the gifts that differ
and, in splendid, varied ways,
sing a new church into being
one in faith and love and praise.**

**5 Draw together at one table,
all the human family:
shape a circle ever wider,
and a people ever free.
Let us bring the gifts that differ
and, in splendid, varied ways,
sing a new church into being
one in faith and love and praise.**

Sermon: *followed by silent reflection*

Preacher: The Revd Tim Norwood: National Ecumenical Officer for The Church of England

*** 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 CCL257120*

Signing of the Covenant

by Local Amersham Clergy, Church Warden and Church Secretary

The Revd Deiniol Heywood: Interim Assistant Archdeacon of Buckingham Episcopal Area

The Revd George Watt: URC Moderator of The Thames North Synod

The Revd Lisa Kerry: Regional Minister of The Central Baptist Association

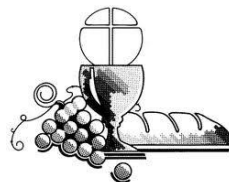
Prayers of Intercession *led by Church Leaders*

THE COMMUNION

led by The Revd Ian Green and The Revd Debbie Oades

***Hymn:** A body made of many parts *Tune R&S 552: Dominus Regit Me*

**1. A body made of many parts,
diverse, yet all together,
where each is valued, each required,
and all are one forever.**



**2. Christ's Church is called, by grace, to live
united as one being,
where each must play their special part,
like walking, breathing, seeing.**

**3. However slight I judge my worth
compared with those around me,
I cannot say, 'I don't belong!'
for Christ himself has found me.**

**4. Nor can I sneer and set at nought
the value of another;
we all are needed as we are
distinct, yet sister, brother.**

**5. So let us grow in shared respect,
develop mutual caring,
with love the gift that's prized the most
'til each and all are sharing.**

**6. A body made of many parts,
diverse, yet all together,
where each is valued, each required,
and all are one forever.**

John Campbell 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 602:** Forth in the peace of Christ we go *Tune: R & S 521 Angels' Song*

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


Morning Tea and Coffee is served in the Church Hall after the service

Sing a new church

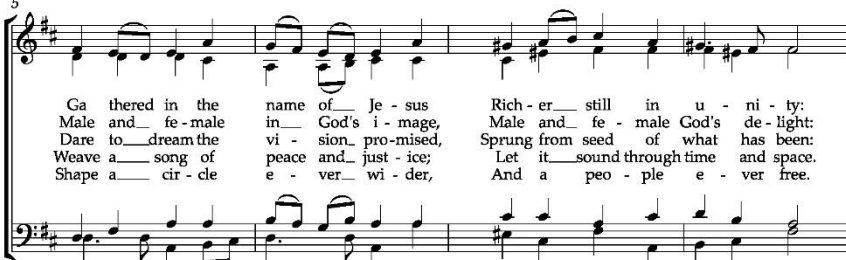
Tune: Cleeton St Mary

Sister Delores Dufner, OSB

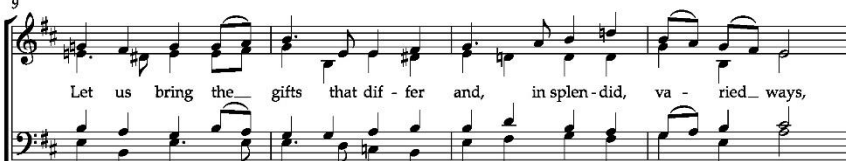
Rachel Hewitt



Sum-moned by the God who made us Rich in our di - ver - si - ty,
Ra - dant ri - sen from the wa - ter, Robed in ho - li - ness and light,
Trust the good-ness of cre - a - tion; Trust the spi - rit strong with - in,
Bring the hopes of ev - ery na - tion; Bring the art of ev - ery race.
Draw to - ge - ther at one ta - ble, All the hu - man fa - mi - ly:



Ga thered in the name of Je - sus Rich - er still in u - ni - ty:
Male and fe - male in God's i - mage, Male and fe - male God's de - light:
Dare to dream the vi - sion pro-mised, Sprung from seed of what has been:
Weave a song of peace and just - ice; Let it sound through time and space.
Shape a cir - cle e - ver wi - der, And a peo - ple e - ver free.



Let us bring the gifts that dif - fer and, in splen - did, va - ried ways,



(Unis)
Sing a new church in - to be - ing One in faith and love and praise.