



AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 4th January 2026

MORNING WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

led by The Revd Ian Green and The Revd Erna Stevenson

Organist: Edward Cross

Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you 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 184:** As with gladness men of old

During which the Bible is placed in the pulpit



Opening Responses

Minister: We gather to worship God,

All: to present our prayers and praises.

Minister: We gather to listen out for God,

**All: who speaks through bible and sermon,
in silence and in fellowship.**

Minister: Anyone in Christ is a new creation.

All: The old has gone, the new has come!

Minister: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

Opening Prayers of Praise, Confession and Lord's Prayer
followed by **Welcome and Notices**

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

* **New Year Act of Dedication**

Minister: Covenant God, strengthening and saving God,
we claim the promises of your Word
and ask for your help.

All: By the power of your Holy Spirit
make bold our vision of your kingdom.
Strengthen us to do your will and help us to
walk together in your way.
Pour down your Spirit, that the promises we make this day,
may be an offering of love, our duty and delight,
and that by our life together we may glorify you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Minister: Since we are surrounded by so great a crowd of
witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and
the sin which clings so closely and let us run with
perseverance the race that is set before us, looking
to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

All: This day we give ourselves again to the Lord
and to each other to be bound together in fellowship,
for the sake of the mission and glory of God.
Celebrating our shared life,
we commit ourselves to belonging and working together,
in our congregation,
with our neighbouring churches and in society.
We pledge all that we have and all that we are
to fulfil God's purposes of love.

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6 OT p.620

Matthew 2.1-12 NT p1

Reader:

All:

This morning's reader is Norma Jenns

In this is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

***Hymn:** We three kings
I. We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder Star.

O, star of wonder, star of might,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.



**2. Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain;
Gold we bring to crown Him again;
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.**

**3. Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, all men raising,
Worship Him, God on High.**

**4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Seal'd in the stone-cold tomb.**

**5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and sacrifice,
Heaven sings, "Hallelujah!"
"Hallelujah!" Earth replies.**

John Hopkins CCL257120

Sermon: Journeys to Faith *followed by Silent Reflection*
Sermon notes are available as you leave and on the church website

Prayers of Intercession

* **Hymn 373:** Lord Jesus Christ

THE COMMUNION

***The Peace** *all standing*

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: **and also with you.**

Minister: We say for one another:

All: **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**

Minister: We give thanks to God and sing:
**All: 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 and Invitation to Communion**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.
Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.
Minister: Therefore with all your people in heaven and on
earth we sing the resounding hymn of your glory:
**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Sung: 13 in heaven and earth are full of your glory.
hymn book Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution and Sharing of the bread and wine

Post Communion Prayer

**All: O God who gives all that is good,
You have blessed the food and drink
we have received at your table.
As we now depart, may your grace
and laughter shine upon us,
your kindness be on our tongues,
your peace rest within us
and your love reign in our hearts. Amen**

***Hymn 183: Brightest and best** *Tune: Epiphany Hymn*

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

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