



AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 14th December 2025 Advent 3

HOLY COMMUNION

led by The Revd Ian Green and The Revd Heather McIntyre

Organist: Hilary Davan Wetton

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

GOD INVITES US TO WORSHIP

***Hymn 740: Tell out my soul**

During which the bible is taken to the pulpit



Opening Responses

Minister: When all seemed dark,
All: God sent us a Great Light.
Minister: In Jesus Christ
All: God's Joy was born among us.
Minister: The Word became flesh
All: He came and dwelt among us.
Minister: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you!

Opening Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Lord's Prayer *back cover of hymn book*

Welcome and Notices

Mission Offering

***Hymn 156: Shepherds came**

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 JOY;
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow,
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

Reading: Luke 1:44-45

Elizabeth said: I tell you, when your greeting sounded in my ear, the baby in my womb leapt for joy. Happy is she who has had faith that the Lord's promise to her would be fulfilled.

Lighting of 3rd candle

PRAYER:

**Dear Lord, today we thank you for the Marys among us.
Those who welcome your coming with joy despite all the hardship and
misunderstanding they have to endure.
Help us to be open to your gifts wherever they may come from
that Christ may be born in us and among us. Amen**

Expressing our Thanks to Hilary

***Hymn:** In this world, the isle of dreams *Tune: Brookend: Gustav Holst*

**In this world, the isle of dreams,
While we sit by sorrow's streams,
Tears and terrors are our themes
Reciting.**

**But when once from hence we fly
More and more approaching nigh
Unto young eternity,
Uniting.**

**In that whiter island, where
Things are evermore sincere;
Candor here and luster there
Delighting.**

**There no monstrous fancies shall
Out of hell an horror call,
To create, or cause at all,
Affrighting.**

**There, in calm and cooling sleep
We our eyes shall never steep,
But eternal watch shall keep,
Attending.**

**Pleasures, such as shall pursue
Me immortalized, and you;
And fresh joys, as never too
Have ending.**

Robert Herrick 1591- 1674 CCL257120 By kind permission of Miss Imogen Holst

Readings: Isaiah 35.1-7 OT p.597
Matthew 11.2-11 NT p.9
Reader: In this is the word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God
Today's reader is Sara Autton

Sermon: Taking the Blinkers Off *followed by silent reflection.*
Sermon notes are available at the back of the church and on the website

OUR RESPONSE

Intercessions

***Hymn 162:** In the bleak mid-winter

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 followed by 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,
Sung: 13 in **God of power and might,**
hymn book **heaven and earth are full of your glory.**
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

Mysterious God, confounding our expectations
Meeting us where we least expect to find you
Stay with us now.
Child of the manger, healing our pain, sharing our weakness
Stay with us now.
Source of life, birth of God within our own experience
Stay with us now.
Stay with us in our frailty, stay with us on our journey
Walk beside us and live, we pray, within us.

*** Hymn: 656:** Lo, he comes

Dismissal and Blessing with sung Amen *All Standing*

Join us for Morning Tea and Coffee in the Church Hall