



Sunday Worship

May 18, 2025

City Bach Collective, Hazel Brooks, leader
Joanna Davies, soprano
Alex Pullinger, countertenor
Nick Allen, tenor
Jonathan Evers, bass
Scott Stroman, conductor

Prelude

Gavotte from Orchestral suite No. 3

J. S. Bach

Hymn

Words: Joachim Neander, trans. Catharine Winkworth
Music: 16th C German melody

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
if with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him.
Let the Amen sound from His people again;
gladly for aye we adore Him.

Call to Worship

Rev. Jennifer Mills-Knutsen

Praise the Beloved! Praises be to God in earth's sanctuary!

Praise be to God in the mighty firmament!

Praise the mighty works of love;

Praise the glory and extol the greatness of Love divine!

Give praise with trumpets, give praise with lute and harp!

Give praise with timbrel and dance,

give praise with strings and reed!

Give praise with booming drums, give praise with crashing cymbals!

Let all things that breathe praise God with their lives!

May it be so now and forevermore.

Psalm 150, adapted by Nan C. Merrill, United States

Prayer of Invocation

O Creator and Mighty God,

you have promised

strength for the weak

rest for the labourers

light for the way

grace for the trials

help from above

unfailing sympathy

undying love.

O Creator and Mighty God

Help us to continue in your promise.

Unknown author, Pakistan

Passing of the Peace

Song

Words: Thomas Ken / Music: 16th C Geneva

Praise God, from who all blessings flow;

praise him all creatures here below;

praise him above ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

News of the Church

Scripture

Psalm 103:1-6

Nathaniel H.

Praise the LORD, my soul;

all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the LORD, my soul,

and forget not all his benefits –

who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Opening Reflection

Rev. Jennifer Mills-Knutsen
and Dr. Scott Stroman

Cantata Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehre (BWV 137) J.S. Bach

1. Choir

Lobe den Herren, den mächtigen König der Ehren,
Meine geliebete Seele, das ist mein Begehren.
Kommet zu Hauf,
Psalter und Harfen, wacht auf!
Lasset die Musicam hören.

*Praise the Lord, the mighty King of honour,
my beloved soul, this is my desire.
Come join the crowd,
psaltery and harps, awake!
Let the music be heard.*

2. Alto Aria

Lobe den Herren,
der alles so herrlich regieret,
Der dich auf Adellers Fittichen sicher geführtet,
Der dich erhält,
Wie es dir selber gefällt;
Hast du nicht dieses verspüret?

*Praise the Lord,
who directs everything so gloriously,
who leads you surely upon eagle's wings
who sustains you
as it pleases you yourself;;
have you not sensed this?*

3. Soprano/Bass Duet

Lobe den Herren,
der künstlich und fein dich bereitet,
Der die Gesundheit verliehen,
dich freundlich geleitet;
In wieviel Not
Hat nicht der gnädige Gott
Über die Flügel gebreitet!

*Praise the Lord,
who prepares you wisely and well
who bestows health,
and accompanies you as a friend;
in how much suffering
has not the gracious God spread
his wings over you!*

4. Tenor Aria

Lobe den Herren,
der deinen Stand sichtbar gesegnet,
Der aus dem Himmel
mit Strömen der Liebe geregnet;

*Praise the Lord,
who surely blesses your condition,
who from Heaven
rains down streams of love;*

Denke dran,
Was der Allmächtige kann,
Der die mit Liebe begegnet.

*consider this,
what the Almighty can do,
who comes to meet you with love.*

5. Chorale

Lobe den Herren,
was in mir ist, lobe den Namen!
Alles, was Odem hat,
lobe mit Abrahams Samen!
Er ist dein Licht,
Seele, vergiß es ja nicht;
Lobende, schließe mit Amen!

*Praise the Lord,
what is within me, praise his name!
Everything that has breath,
praise with Abraham's heirs!
He is your light,
soul, do not forget it;
praising, conclude with Amen!*

Prayers of the People

Rev. Jared Jagers

If you have a joy or concern to share, please raise your hand.

When the leader says, "We pray to the Lord," please respond, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Song

Words: Martin Richart trans. Catharine Winkworth

Melody: Johann Crueger

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices,
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore

Sending Forth & Blessing

*You are invited to stay after worship for a time of fellowship
with coffee, tea and nibbles provided by Kathleen Pearson.*



We will depart the sanctuary after coffee hour and walk together to the square. Bring something to sit on and food for yourself or pick up something from the shops along the way. All are welcome.



Wednesday, 28 May
Featuring vocalist Elaine Delmar
accompanied by Barry Green on piano

News of the Church

Crèche & Children's Church: a professionally staffed crèche is available for ages 0-4 from 10am. Children aged 4+ are invited to Children's Church downstairs after a blessing for an age-appropriate Bible lesson and activities.

Choir: Everyone is welcome to join the choir - both experienced singers and newcomers welcomed! Just join us at rehearsals here on Wednesdays 7-9 PM and at 10AM on Sundays.

Bible study: Newcomers are always welcome to an open and lively discussion, Sundays at 9 on Zoom. We are currently reading through the crucifixion and resurrection stories in the Gospel of Luke. All perspectives and questions are welcome. Contact Jared for details.

Rev. Judge Penny Brown Reynolds *guest preacher*



Judge ~ Television Personality ~ University Lecturer
Civil Rights Advocate ~ CEO

Pastor

Sunday, 1 June 2025
11:00 a.m.

Free and open to all.



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International
Church
amchurch.co.uk

Are you a guest with us today? Please complete a welcome card at the back so that we can contact you with information and to minister to you. Or scan this code with your smartphone to complete the form online.



Listening to Stories of Value

Core Value: Genuineness and Clear Values

In the autumn of 2024, AIC hosted Listening Groups about how AIC's values and people's personal stories aligned. Stories are anonymous, but reflect one of nine core values articulated by many people. You can read the full report on the AIC website.

Story

I normally follow the rules. As an obedient person born into a religious family, I didn't question the norms. The first time I really rebelled was when I got married, an interfaith marriage. I was shocked to discover church membership was no longer open to me—I was not eligible, because membership was only available through your father or husband. Taking interfaith marriage excluded me from membership. Finding AIC, how the organization functions matters to me. Our values and purposes are mirrored in every aspect of our life together.



Staff

Rev. Jennifer Mills-Knutsen, *Senior Minister*
Rev. Jared Jagers, *Minister of Faith Formation*
Scott Stroman, *Director of Worship and Music*
Brooke Rowan, *Community Engagement & Volunteers*
Monty Strikes, *Business Manager*
Chris Omaweng, *Church Administrator*
Alex Brown, *Soup Kitchen Director*

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Elodie Lasserre, *President*
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Helene Donnelly, *Membership & Outreach*
Tangy Morgan, *At Large*
Preethi John, *People & Staffing*
Jake Penny, *Welcome & Inclusion*
Isabelle Borfiga, *At Large*

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For US Taxpayers and
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American International Church

You are welcome here.

You can belong here, without exception or condition.
Your whole self matters to God and to us.

The American International Church is a community of many races, languages, cultures, faith traditions, nationalities, ages, genders, abilities, financial circumstances, and sexual identities.

Following Jesus, we work to be inclusive, accessible, and open to all.

Here, you can

- form friendships
- serve others
- search for truth and meaning
- work for justice
- cultivate compassion
- find forgiveness
- share grace
- grow in faith
- and in all things, discover God's love.

You can join in a little or a lot,
for a day or a lifetime,
with abundant faith and abundant doubt.

You are welcome here.



79A Tottenham Court Road
London W1T 4TD
020 7580 2791

<https://amchurch.co.uk> | info@amchurch.co.uk
A Congregation of the United Reformed Church