**Morning Prayer on the Third Sunday before Lent**

**Sunday 16th February 2025 at 9.30 (call in from 9.15)**

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85649430168?pwd=QzFzNytXM01TQTc5cTROaHc2aElvZz09

Meeting ID: 856 4943 0168

Passcode: 336782

**Telephone instructions:**

\* Dial: 0131 460 1196  
  
\* You are then welcomed to Zoom and asked to type in the meeting ID ie. 856 4943 0168  
  
\* If the next instruction is to add your personal ID just press # to ignore  
  
\* When passcode requested type numbers i.e. 336782 plus #.  
  
\* At this point you should be admitted to the call.****

**Preparation**

O Lord, open our lips

*All* **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Your light springs up for the righteous

*All* **and all the peoples have seen your glory.**

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Holy God, we gather to worship you in all of your glory.  
Fill this place with your Holy Spirit and help us  
to see more of who you really are.  
Come, meet us and prepare us to do your will.  
**Amen.**

**A prayer of confession**

Lord Jesus Christ, you tended the sick and fed the hungry, you welcomed the outcast and loved each one.  
We confess that we so often make excuses for our neglect of the hungry, we so often close our eyes too those less fortunate or different to us.  
We confess we are so often fearful of losing what we have that we don’t share enough of it with those in need.  
We confess our ignorance of the needs of so many and our laziness in failing to learn more ways of helping.  
We seek your forgiveness and your guidance.  
**Amen**

**Assurance of forgiveness**

God knows our struggles and our turmoil, and the challenges and choices we face and take.  
In his mercy, he forgives our failings and sets us free to walk the road of challenge unencumbered by past failings.  
**Amen.**

Psalmody

*Psalm 1*

**1**Blessed is the one  
  who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
    or sit in the company of mockers,  
**2**but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,  
    and who meditates on his law day and night.  
**3**That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
    which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither—  
    whatever they do prospers.

**4**Not so the wicked!  
   They are like chaff  
    that the wind blows away.  
**5**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
    nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**6**For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
     but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

*All* **Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now**

**and shall be for ever.**

**Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us.

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Lord, help us to hear your word, and to speak it.  
Help us to know your truth, and to show it.  
Help us to feel your love, and to share it.  
In Jesus’ name.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Word of God**

*First reading:* Jeremiah 17: 5-10

**5**This is what the Lord says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,  
    who draws strength from mere flesh  
    and whose heart turns away from the Lord.  
**6**That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;  
    they will not see prosperity when it comes.  
They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,  
    in a salt land where no one lives.

**7**“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
     whose confidence is in him

**8**They will be like a tree planted by the water  
     that sends out its roots by the stream.  
It does not fear when heat comes;  
    its leaves are always green.  
It has no worries in a year of drought  
    and never fails to bear fruit.”

**9**The heart is deceitful above all things  
     and beyond cure.  
     Who can understand it?

**10**“I the Lord search the heart  
 and examine the mind,  
to reward each person according to their conduct,  
 according to what their deeds deserve.”

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

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*Responsory:*  *from Colossians 3*

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead

*All* **And Christ shall give you light.**

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

*All* **Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.**

Set your minds on things that are above,  
not on things that are on the earth.

*All* **And Christ shall give you light.**

When Christ our life appears

you will appear with him in glory.

*All* **Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,  
and Christ shall give you light.**

*All* **Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Second reading:*  Luke 6: 17-26

617He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. 18They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

20Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
    for yours is the kingdom of God.  
21“Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
    for you will be filled.  
“Blessed are you who weep now,  
    for you will laugh.

22“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame youon account of the Son of Man. 23Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

24“But woe to you who are rich,  
    for you have received your consolation.  
25“Woe to you who are full now,  
    for you will be hungry.  
“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
    for you will mourn and weep.

26“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

*We pause to reflect on the readings before turning to prayer.*



**Intercessions**

**Living Lord, hear our prayer**

Creator God  
with so many of our rivers and streams polluted,  
we pray for our world and for your living water  
to refresh, heal and revive all that is dying.  
For the deep roots of commitment, investment and positivity  
to shape our future and nurture growth.  
**Living Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for the political leaders of the world that their decision making  
would be rooted in wisdom, justice and collaboration.  
We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine,  
at this crucial and nerve-wracking time.  
We pray for the people of America and for President Trump  
as he signs edicts and meets with world leaders.  
We pray for the people of Russia and Ukraine  
and remember Alexei Navalny on the first anniversary of his death.  
We pray for all imprisoned for their beliefs  
and for those who are killed because of them.  
**Living Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for all who are suffering from hunger and deprivation  
that our response would be rooted in empathy, generosity and action.  
We pray for those places in the news and those areas where the cameras rarely go. We remember the people of Southern Africa where drought has never been worse.  
**Living Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for our Church, for our leaders and our congregations  
that our response to the challenges of our times  
might be rooted in faith, courage and honesty.  
We pray for all whose faith is fragile and all whose ministry is especially difficult;  
for all who have given up on the Church and all who have been hurt by it.  
**Living Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for all who are struggling with illness and all who have been bereaved,  
that they would be surrounded by support rooted in compassion, respect and  love. Today we pray especially for ….. (*the sick*)  
We remember especially those grieving the loss of a child to knife crime,   
those who have been bereaved suddenly ……. (*the bereaved*)  
and those who have watched over a loved one for many years.  
**Living Lord, hear our prayer**

And we pray with all our hearts that the leaves of evil in the world would wither and fall and that the trees of peace, justice and joy would grow deep roots,  
stand firm and bear the fruit of your kingdom in our lives  
and in the lives of all we love and have prayed for.  
**Living Lord, hear our prayer**

**Amen**

*Collect for the Third Sunday before Lent*

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All* **Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

Life-giving God,  
keep us well rooted in you,  
so we can grow and be strong  
through all that happens this week.  
As you encourage us,  
may we encourage others to live and grow well.  
**Amen.**

*Blessing*

The God of hope fill you

with all joy and peace in believing;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among us and remain with us

and those we love and pray for

today and always.

*All* **Amen.**

**What’s on**

**Bible Study Group**

**The next meeting will be held at Myrtle Cottage EX16 9ES**

Monday 10 March 2025 at 2.30pm

If you would like to come, please let me know so that there are the right number of

handouts. Many thanks. Tim Gorringe t.j.gorringe@exeter.ac.uk

**Prayer Breakfast at The Rectory**

The next prayer breakfast will be at 9.00am on Saturday 22 March 2025. Everyone welcome.

**Prayer Chain**

The Exe Valley Mission Community are starting a telephone prayer chain. If you like to be included for prayer or know someone who would like to be included, please contact Steph at the church office 01884 250417. Only first initials will be used on the prayer chain to ensure total confidentiality.

**Coffee and Chat with Steph**

Steph will be at Banburys from 10.15am on Friday 14March for coffee and a chat if you would like to join her.

**Practicing the Way – A course for Lenten Discipleship**

Steph will be running this course during Lent at The Rectory Withleigh.

Thursday 13, 20 & 27 March and Thursday 3 April at 11.00am & 7.00pm.

Please come along when you can and encourage others to sign up. Please let the church office know when you can come. 01884 250417

**Contacting Church Office**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am -12 noon

Email: [office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org) Tel: 01884 250417 or 07733949295

**Giving**

**Giving to the Exe Valley Mission Community**

If you would like to make a contribution to the work of The Exe Valley Mission Community please make a gift using the Exe Valley Group of Churches BACS details. Please use the reference EVMC Services.

**Account Name:** Exe Valley Group of Churches

**Sort Code:**60-21-27

**Account No:** 54731690

Cheques should be made payable to: 'Exe Valley Group of Churches'

To give to St Peter’s Church PCC, please use account number 00213815 and

sort code 30-98-61. Please use the reference St Peter’s services.

Thank you for your support.

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