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

**Sunday 23rd 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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Description automatically generated

Lord, fill us with expectation that:  
as we worship, you will meet us;  
as we worship, you will speak your words into our hearts;  
as we worship, you will challenge us and change us.  
Lord, we are here and we worship you.  
**Amen.**

### A prayer of confession

Lord, the world around us is in a sorry state.  
We see the effects of climate change affecting the poor the most.  
Forgive us for our misuse of the earth’s resource.  
Lord, **forgive**.  
We see people in some parts of the world crying out in hunger.  
Forgive us for so much unequal sharing and wasting so much.  
Lord, **forgive**.  
We see wars and conflicts around the world destroying  
lives and futures.  
Forgive us for not speaking out for peace.  
Lord, **forgive**.  
We see the strong and powerful bullying the powerless.  
Forgive us for not standing up to those who misuse  
their authority.  
Lord, **forgive**.  
**Amen.**

### Assurance of forgiveness

God forgives us and understands our regrets and our hopes.  
Let us go in peace and love to serve our generous God.  
**Amen.**

*The Song of the Three 35-37, 60-65*

Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord:

*All* **sing his praise and exalt him forever.**

Bless the Lord you heavens:

*All* **sing his praise and exalt him forever.**

Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord:

*All* **sing his praise and exalt him forever.**

Bless the Lord all people on earth:

*All* **sing his praise and exalt him forever.**

O people of God bless the Lord:

*All* **sing his praise and exalt him forever.**

Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord:

*All* **sing his praise and exalt him forever.**

Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord:

*All* **sing his praise and exalt him forever.**

Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit:

*All* **bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.**

**Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit:**

**sing his praise and exalt him forever.**



**The Word of God**

*First reading:* Genesis 45: 3-11, 15

**3**Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

**4**Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! **5**And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. **6**For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no ploughing and reaping. **7**But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

**8**“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. **9**Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. **10**You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. **11**I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

**15**And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

*Psalmody:*

*Psalm 65:*

**1**Praise awaits[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2065&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14862b)] you, our God, in Zion;  
    to you our vows will be fulfilled.  
**2**You who answer prayer,  
    to you all people will come.  
**3**When we were overwhelmed by sins,  
    you forgave[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2065&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14864c)] our transgressions.  
**4**Blessed are those you choose  
    and bring near to live in your courts!  
We are filled with the good things of your house,  
    of your holy temple.

**5**You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds,  
    God our Saviour,  
the hope of all the ends of the earth  
    and of the farthest seas,  
**6**who formed the mountains by your power,  
    having armed yourself with strength,  
**7**who stilled the roaring of the seas,  
    the roaring of their waves,  
    and the turmoil of the nations.  
**8**The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;  
    where morning dawns, where evening fades,  
    you call forth songs of joy.

**9**You care for the land and water it;  
    you enrich it abundantly.  
The streams of God are filled with water  
    to provide the people with grain,  
    for so you have ordained it.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2065&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14870d)]  
**10**You drench its furrows and level its ridges;  
    you soften it with showers and bless its crops.  
**11**You crown the year with your bounty,  
    and your carts overflow with abundance.  
**12**The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;  
    the hills are clothed with gladness.  
**13**The meadows are covered with flocks  
    and the valleys are mantled with grain;  
    they shout for joy and sing.

*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 forever.**

**Amen.**

*Second reading:* Luke 6: 27-38

**27**“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28**bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. **29**If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. **30**Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. **31**Do to others as you would have them do to you.

**32**“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. **33**And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. **34**And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. **35**But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. **36**Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

**37**“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. **38**Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

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

A person holding a candle

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**Intercessions**

Living God, we ask for a generous spirit to pray for our world with passion,  
with persistence and with your heart of love.

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit, receive our prayer.**

We pray for a generous spirit for the leaders of the world,  
that their decisions would be shaped by wisdom, justice and courage.  
We pray for those whose are hugely impacted by these decisions;  
those who feel helpless, those who feel afraid, angry or betrayed;  
those who are affected financially and those whose lives are endangered.  
We remember especially the people of Ukraine and Russia, of Israel and Palestine, and we pray for those people suffering in places of extreme violence,especially those in DR Congo.

**Living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, receive our prayer.**

We pray for a generous spirit for the faith leaders of the world,  
for integrity, prayerfulness and action,  
and particularly for those who guide and shape our worship  
and life together in this place.  
We pray for a passion to serve, a willingness to listen, a commitment to change, and a dependence on you to live as your kingdom people.

**Living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, receive our prayer.**

We pray for a generous spirit for those in the media:  
journalists, film makers and influencers, that their headlines, stories and images would be truthful, challenging but fair.  
We pray for those whose lives have been ruined by the press, but give thanks and also pray for those who risk their lives to bring hidden suffering  
and injustices to the eyes of the world.  
We pray for those killed in war zones and those silenced by imprisonment.

**Living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, receive our prayer.**

And we pray for all those in need of receiving your generous spirit  
of hope, healing and love:  
those under great stress at work, at home;  
those surviving on minimal resources;  
those battling trauma and anxiety;  
those we know and name now.... (prayer list)  
and those with no-one to name them in prayer.

**Living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, receive our prayer.**

**Amen.**

*Collect for the Second Sunday before Lent*

Almighty God,

you have created the heavens and the earth

and made us in your own image:

teach us to discern your hand in all your works

and your likeness in all your children;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who with you and the Holy Spirit

reigns supreme over all things,

now and for ever.

*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.**

Help me to be forgiving  
when others are unfair or unkind or unfriendly.  
Help me to show a generosity of spirit  
in the way I respond to others,  
for that is how you treat me.  
**Amen.**

*Blessing*

May God keep you in all your days.

May Christ shield you in all your ways.

May the Spirit bring you healing and peace.

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.**

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**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.