**Morning Prayer Sunday next before Lent**

**Sunday 2nd March 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**

Praise the name of the Lord;

*All* **ascribe greatness to our God.**

Lord, open our lips

*All* **and we shall praise your name.**

A picture containing text, linedrawing

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People of God, look up!   
Believe that you will encounter God this morning.  
Be open to God revealing something of himself,  
and changing the way we see the world.

Ever-present God,  
you call us together in this place.  
Let the light of your presence  
shine on us, inspire us,  
challenge us and encourage us  
as we encounter you.  
**Amen.**

### A prayer of confession

Father God, forgive us our mistakes and for all the times  
we fail to listen, yield and obey.  
**We’re sorry for all our bad habits.**  
Forgive us if we have behaved in ways that go against  
your Word and for seeking the opinions of others before you.  
**We’re sorry for not looking to you first.**  
Forgive us for the times we have asked but not liked  
what we heard, preferring our own way.  
**We’re sorry for not following you.**  
Forgive us for the times we hide behind proud and selfish masks.  
**We’re sorry for our stubbornness and neglect of others.**  
Forgive us for not spending more time face-to-face with you.  
**We’re sorry for getting distracted.**  
**Help us to turn back to you.  
Amen.**

### Assurance of forgiveness

Through Jesus’ death on the cross, our sins are paid for in full.  
We are free from the bondage of sin.  
**Thank you, Father God, for your loving mercy.**

*All* **Almighty God,  
we ask you to show us something more of who you are  
and how awesome your presence is.  
Overcome our fear of the unknown,  
and lead us into a new experience of you.  
May our worship today be as on a mountain-top,  
a transforming encounter that empowers our love and understanding of you.  
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.**

A group of hands reaching out to the sky

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**The Word of God**

*First reading:* Exodus 34: 29 - 35

**29**When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. **30**When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him. **31**But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. **32**Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai.

**33**When Moses finished speaking to them, he put a veil over his face. **34**But whenever he entered the Lord’s presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out. And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, **35**they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

*Psalmody:*  *Psalm 99*

1    The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble;

he is enthroned above the cherubim: let the earth shake.

2    The Lord is great in Zion

and high above all peoples.

3    Let them praise your name, which is great and awesome;

the Lord our God is holy.

4    Mighty king, who loves justice,

you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

5    **Exalt the Lord our God;**

**bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.**

6    Moses and Aaron among his priests

and Samuel among those who call upon his name;

they called upon the Lord and he answered them.

7    He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;

they kept his testimonies and the law that he gave them.

8    You answered them, O Lord our God;

you were a God who forgave them

and pardoned them for their offences.

9    **Exalt the Lord our God**

**and worship him upon his holy hill,**

**for the Lord our God is holy.**

Lord God, mighty king,

you love justice and establish equity;

may we love justice more than gain

and mercy more than power;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*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 9: 28-43

### The Transfiguration

**28**About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. **29**As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

**30**Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendour, talking with Jesus. **31**They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfilment at Jerusalem. **32**Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

**33**As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)**34**While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.

**35**A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” **36**When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

### Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy

**37**The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. **38**A man in the crowd called out, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. **39**A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. **40**I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not.”

**41**“You unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.” **42**Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. **43**And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

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

**A hands folded over a book

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**Intercessions**

Lord, as your glory shines upon us, may we go from here and shine for you.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:  
**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, we come to you now, recognising that you are the Lord of glory. Your glory is far beyond what we can see or imagine. You are so much greater than anything we can conceive. You are utterly beyond us. And yet, you delight to commune with us, your chosen and beloved people. Thank you for your love. Thank you for listening to us as we turn our thoughts and hearts to prayer. Thank you that you care about each person or situation we pray for. Although you shine in glory, nothing is beyond your loving, caring gaze.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:  
**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, may your glory shine on the world. There is so much darkness, fear and pain, we need your light to shine into every corner.

We ask you to send your light into the Middle East, the place where you were transfigured, to transform the sorrow, hatred and fear into love, light, joy and peace.  
We continue to pray for Israeli hostages and those who love them awaiting their return. And we pray for all who have lost their loved ones, their homes, their schools, their livelihoods in Gaza. We pray that those who can see no way out of their dark situation will be astonished by your light.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:  
**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, we continue to pray for Europe and the growing unrest after three years of war between Russia and Ukraine. We pray that you will bring your wisdom to the leaders of the nations so that they may all focus on bringing a lasting peace.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:  
**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

Lord, as we go out from this place today, may we have been transformed because we have met with you. And may we take that transformation into our places of work and study and our homes. We ask that your glory will shine in our community spaces this week: in our hospitals, our shops, our schools and colleges, the offices, factories, on the buses and trains and in the traffic queues. Help us to bring words of encouragement and hope into every situation we face because we have a hope in you. May our actions reflect your goodness. Lord, may our first thought be kindness as we interact with our families, friends, neighbours, colleagues and anyone else we meet.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:  
**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

 Lord, we pray for those who are hurting or sick or sad. We bring to you all who struggle to see your glory in their current situation. We name all those who are particularly on our hearts now…(*prayer list*)

Lord, help us to take your light into those difficult and painful places. Give us your compassion and help us to be peace-bringers.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:  
**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

 Lord, if we have been focussed on you this morning, then our faces will shine as we leave your presence today. Maybe someone will ask us why. Give us the courage to talk to our friends and neighbours about the reason for our joy in you. Help us to share your story with all who need to hear it this week.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:  
**All: May we go from here and shine for you.**

We think about the week ahead, Lord, and wonder what it will bring. We rehearse in our minds the places we expect to go and people we expect to see… help us to shine there for you. But we know that there may be unexpected moments where we are tested and troubled. Help us to shine for you there, too. In our times of celebration, may you be at the centre. Remind us, in our dark times, that you never leave us. Go before us into every situation, shining as a beacon to guide the way ahead.

Leader: Lord, as your glory shines upon us:  
**All: May we go from here and shine for you and bring us back next week to share the story of your glory as we have seen it in our lives and the lives of others.  
Amen.**

​ *Collect for the First Sunday before Lent*

Almighty Father,

whose Son was revealed in majesty

before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory,

that we may be strengthened to suffer with him

and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, 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.**

*Blessing*

May Christ, who makes saints of sinners,

who has transformed those we remember today,

raise and strengthen you

that you may transform the world;

And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

remain with you and those you love

and pray for today and always.

*All* **Amen.**

**Father, thank you that you are transforming us every day.  
We pray that, not only will we have mountaintop experiences,  
but also that we will know your presence with us  
in our everyday and ordinary moments.  
May we be continually astounded at your greatness,  
and may it show in our lives.  
Amen.**

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**What’s on this week**

**Ash Wednesday** on Wednesday 5th March – A Service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes – 6.00pm St Mary’s Calverleigh. You are all very welcome.

**Exe Valley Community Lunches**

The next lunch is at Calverleigh Village Hall on Thursday 13 March at 12.30pm. Please let the church office if you will be joining us.

**Prayer Breakfast at The Rectory**

The next prayer breakfast will be at 9.00am on Saturday 15 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'