**Morning Prayer The Second Sunday of Lent**

**Sunday 16 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.****

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**Preparation**

Loving God, we gather today  
to explore your promise to always  
have our best interests at heart.  
Help us as we think about the promises we make too.  
**Amen.**

**A prayer of confession**

Lord, you gave Abraham a promise  
that seemed far-fetched at first,  
yet you confirmed it in holy visions.  
Lord, we are sorry when we fail to believe in your promises,  
when we think we must have heard you wrong.  
**Forgive us for doubting and not trusting enough.**

Help us to have faith like Abraham and deepen our trust in you,  
knowing that your promises may not have been fulfilled yet.  
**Forgive us when we lose heart.**  
Help us to wait upon you and bless us with faith  
that nothing can shake.  
**Amen.**

**Assurance of forgiveness**

Father God, you fulfilled your promise of a Saviour  
in your Son Jesus Christ,  
who grants forgiveness of sin.  
We are forgiven.  
**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

*First Reading* Genesis 12: 1-12, 17-18

### The Lord’s Covenant with Abram

**15**After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.  
    I am your shield,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genisis%2015&version=NIV#fen-NIV-362a)]  
    your very great reward.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genisis%2015&version=NIV#fen-NIV-362b)]”

**2**But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genisis%2015&version=NIV#fen-NIV-363c)] my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” **3**And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

**4**Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” **5**He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genisis%2015&version=NIV#fen-NIV-366d)] be.”

**6**Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

**7**He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

**8**But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

**9**So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

**10**Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. **11**Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

**12**As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

**17**When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. **18**On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genisis%2015&version=NIV#fen-NIV-379e)] of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates

This is the word of the Lord.

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

Psalmody Psalm 27

**1**The Lord is my light and my salvation—  
    whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—  
    of whom shall I be afraid?

**2**When the wicked advance against me  
    to devour me,  
it is my enemies and my foes  
    who will stumble and fall.  
**3**Though an army besiege me,  
    my heart will not fear;  
though war break out against me,  
    even then I will be confident.

**4**One thing I ask from the Lord,  
    this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
    all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord  
    and to seek him in his temple.  
**5**For in the day of trouble  
    he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent  
    and set me high upon a rock.

**6**Then my head will be exalted  
    above the enemies who surround me;  
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;  
    I will sing and make music to the Lord.

**7**Hear my voice when I call, Lord;  
    be merciful to me and answer me.  
**8**My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”  
    Your face, Lord, I will seek.  
**9**Do not hide your face from me,  
    do not turn your servant away in anger;  
    you have been my helper.  
Do not reject me or forsake me,  
    God my Saviour.  
**10**Though my father and mother forsake me,  
    the Lord will receive me.  
**11**Teach me your way, Lord;  
    lead me in a straight path  
    because of my oppressors.  
**12**Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,  
    for false witnesses rise up against me,  
    spouting malicious accusations.

**13**I remain confident of this:  
    I will see the goodness of the Lord  
    in the land of the living.  
**14**Wait for the Lord;  
    be strong and take heart  
    and wait for the 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 for ever.**

**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

*Second Reading*  Luke 13: 31-35

### Jesus’ Sorrow for Jerusalem

**31**At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

**32**He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’ **33**In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

**34**“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. **35**Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’[”

This is the word of the Lord.

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

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

**Hands holding up a cross

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**Intercessions**

Lord, as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled,  
**help us to keep trusting your faithfulness.**

Heavenly Father, as we look at the state of our world we sometimes start to wonder. When we focus our attention on incredible suffering in Africa; the devastation of so much of the Middle East; the continued war in Ukraine and the fragile attempts for a ceasefire, we often fail to understand. We are tempted to ask: Are you still in control?

Lord, we do not have the answers. Yet you have invited us to pray. And so we come, offering our faltering prayers to you - believing, even if only a little bit at times, that you are listening and you will act. We bring the many, many needs of the world to you now -those we see in the news and those seen only by you. You see the pain and you see the suffering and yet we know, and we trust, that you are Lord.

Lord, as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled,  
**help us to keep trusting your faithfulness.**

Lord of the universe, thank you for all the beauty in our world. We think of the new growth blooming at the start of spring. We are amazed by the incredible night sky, the stars, the planets: everything we can see and everything that is beyond our comprehension. All of it crafted by your hands. All of it upheld by you. Lord, as we look at the stars, help us to remember your promise to Abram and your promises to us. Abram never saw the full fruit of the promises and yet he carried on following your word. We may not understand, we may be confused but help us, whenever we see the night sky, to remember that you are a faithful God.

Lord, as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled,  
**help us to keep trusting your faithfulness.**

Lord, sometimes our problems and troubles seem insurmountable. We can’t see a way through. We can’t understand why. We think of those we know who are in pain; awaiting a diagnosis; struggling with anxiety and depression; facing a long, hard road to recovery; and those who are mourning the loss of a loved one; a job; an opportunity; those who live on the edge of society. We pray especially for ……(prayer list)

Lord, we don’t know why and sometimes we’re afraid to ask in case you think we are losing our faith. But we know that when times are tough we need you more than ever. We need to cling tightly to you just as you hold us firmly and safely in your arms. Help us to trust that, even if the now is really, really hard, the not yet will be good because you are a good God. Lord, we believe. Help our unbelief.

Lord, as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled,  
**help us to keep trusting your faithfulness.**

Lord we thank you for the times when we have glimpses of your glory; when we have seen your promises coming true even when we didn’t expect it. We think of all the good things that have happened to us or our families this week and we pause to smile. We thank you for good news stories; for those unexpected moments of joy, maybe from people we don’t normally have much to do with; for fun; for laughter; for a job well done. We thank you that you are with us in these small moments as well as the life-changing situations.

As we prepare to go into the coming week, help us to look forward to travelling with you. Go before us, Lord, and light our way. Help us to see you in the trivial and the timeless; in the life-changing and the mundane. Keep us from following our own feeble footsteps but instead lead us on and take us where you are going, Lord. Surprise us with your presence; startle us with answers to our unspoken prayers; bring us back here next week with stories to tell of your goodness.

Lord, as we wait for your promises to be fulfilled  
**Help us to keep trusting your faithfulness and to keep following your wonderful, winding, challenging path.**

**Amen**

*The Collect for the Second Sunday of Lent*

Almighty God,

you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,

that they may return to the way of righteousness:

grant to all those who are admitted

into the fellowship of Christ’s religion,

that they may reject those things

that are contrary to their profession,

and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ,

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*

Trusting in the compassion of God,

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 it is 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.**

Lord, you have kept your promises to your people throughout the ages.  
Send us out with renewed confidence  
that you are faithful to your Word.  
Help us to see signs that you are at work in our lives  
and the wider world this week.  
In Jesus’ name.  
**Amen.**

*Blessing*

Christ give us grace to grow in holiness,

to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

be with us, and all those we love and pray for,

today and always.

*All* **Amen**

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**What’s on…**

**Exe Valley Community Lunches**

The next lunch is at Oakford Village Hall on Thursday 10 April at 12.30pm. Please let the church office if you will be joining us.

**Agape Meal Maundy Thursday**

Agape Meal at Cruwys Morchard Village Hall on Thursday 17 April at 6.30pm. Please let the office know if you will be joining us.

**Prayer Breakfast at The Rectory**

The next prayer breakfast will be at 9.00am on Saturday 26 April 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 11April 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.

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