**Morning Prayer Epiphany 5  
Sunday, 4th February 2024, The second before Lent**

This Sunday we are looking forward to worshipping with you on Zoom or Conference Call at 9.30am (lines open up at 9.15am)

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

Your light springs up for the righteous  
**and all the peoples have seen your glory.**

O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;   
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.

Know that the Lord is God;   
it is he that has made us and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;   
give thanks to him and bless his name.

For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting,   
and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

*Psalm 100*

**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.

***Silence is kept.***

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

Loving God, ever present, ever faithful,  
we come to you on this new day,  
with our sorrows and our joys,  
with our hopes and our failures.  
Where we have lost our way, show us a new path.  
Where we have lost our sense of your presence, touch our hearts;  
and where we have forgotten those in need, nudge our spirits,  
that we may serve those around us  
with a lightness of touch and a depth of compassion  
that reflects your loving concern for all. **Amen.**

**The Word of God**

***Psalmody***

***The appointed psalmody is said.***

*Psalm 147*

**Refrain:    Great is our Lord and mighty in power.**

1    Alleluia.

How good it is to make music for our God,

how joyful to honour him with praise.

2    The Lord builds up Jerusalem

and gathers together the outcasts of Israel.

3    He heals the brokenhearted

and binds up all their wounds.

**Refrain:    Great is our Lord and mighty in power.**

4    He counts the number of the stars

and calls them all by their names.

5    Great is our Lord and mighty in power;

his wisdom is beyond all telling.

6    The Lord lifts up the poor,

but casts down the wicked to the ground.

**Refrain:    Great is our Lord and mighty in power.**

7    Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;

make music to our God upon the lyre;

8    Who covers the heavens with clouds

and prepares rain for the earth;

9    Who makes grass to grow upon the mountains

and green plants to serve our needs.

**Refrain:    Great is our Lord and mighty in power.**

10  He gives the beasts their food

and the young ravens when they cry.

11  He takes no pleasure in the power of a horse,

no delight in human strength;

12  But the Lord delights in those who fear him,

who put their trust in his steadfast love.

**Refrain:    Great is our Lord and mighty in power.**

Compassionate God,

as you know each star you have created,

so you know the secrets of every heart;

in your loving mercy bring to your table

all who are fearful and broken,

all who are wounded and needy,

that our hungers may be satisfied

in the city of your peace;

through Christ who is our peace.

**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.**

*Scripture reading*

*Isaiah 40: 21-31*

Do you not know?  
    Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
    Have you not understood since the earth was founded?  
**22**He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,  
    and its people are like grasshoppers.  
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,  
    and spreads them out like a tent to live in.  
**23**He brings princes to naught  
    and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.  
**24**No sooner are they planted,  
    no sooner are they sown,  
    no sooner do they take root in the ground,  
than he blows on them and they wither,  
    and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

**25**“To whom will you compare me?  
    Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.  
**26**Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:  
    Who created all these?  
He who brings out the starry host one by one  
    and calls forth each of them by name.  
Because of his great power and mighty strength,  
    not one of them is missing.

**27**Why do you complain, Jacob?  
    Why do you say, Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the Lord;  
    my cause is disregarded by my God”?  
**28**Do you not know?  
    Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
    the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary,  
    and his understanding no one can fathom.  
**29**He gives strength to the weary  
    and increases the power of the weak.  
**30**Even youths grow tired and weary,  
    and young men stumble and fall;  
**31**but those who hope in the Lord  
    will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
    they will run and not grow weary,  
    they will walk and not be faint.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Canticle***

*The Song of the Three*

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.**

**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.**

***Scripture Reading***

Mark‬

### Jesus Heals Many

**29**As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. **30**Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. **31**So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

**32**That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. **33**The whole town gathered at the door, **34**and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

A black background with a black square

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**35**Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. **36**Simon and his companions went to look for him, **37**and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

**38**Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” **39**So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

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

**Prayers**

Leader: Remember, those who hope in the Lord,  
**All: shall renew their strength.**

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord cares for you. He cares for everyone and every situation. So, we come to our God of love and bring Him our pain, our fears, our weariness, our concerns. And we know that He listens as we pray.

We bring Him our joys, our successes and our moments of calm. And we know that He rejoices with us.

Leader: Remember, those who hope in the Lord,  
**All: shall renew their strength.**

Lord God, we thank You that You do not grow tired or weary. Look with compassion on our tired and weary world. We pray for those working so hard to bring peace. When they are discouraged, come close to them. We pray for the people of Gaza and Ukraine, forced from their homes because of war. We pray for the people of Israel losing hope over the return of their loved ones held hostage. We pray for those who need new energy to keep serving in places of despair. We lift our tired and weary world to You…

Leader: Remember, those who hope in the Lord,  
**All: shall renew their strength.**

Lord, we remember those who have died this week due to the violence of others… We are weary of the hatred that we see and hear all around us. Yet we acknowledge that we, too, do not always bring goodness into every situation. We come humbly before You, asking You to forgive us for when we have not been kind and loving.

Lord, You came to bring a new way of living, to usher in a new kingdom. Show us deeper ways of being Your hands and feet, Your eyes and ears in every situation we find ourselves. May our lips always speak uplifting words of encouragement and kindness, just as You speak words of love to us.

Leader: Remember, those who hope in the Lord,  
**All: shall renew their strength.**

Lord, just as the people of Capernaum brought their sick to You for healing, we bring our community to you, asking for Your loving touch. We pray for all who work to keep our communities running. Give them the energy they need. We pray for those who leave our community every day to work elsewhere. Travel with them, Lord, we ask. We think of those who are house-bound, may they know the support of neighbours and friends. We pray for the children, rejoicing in their innocence and enthusiasm. Open our eyes afresh to see the world with wonder. We rejoice with those who may be celebrating this week. May their joy be infectious and lighten everyone around them. We ask for strength for those who work in the health and caring services as well as those who care for people at home, young or old. We bring to mind all those in our congregation who are sick, sad, sorrowful or dying. We name them now, out loud or in our hearts…

Leader: Remember, those who hope in the Lord,  
**All: shall renew their strength.**

Lord, as we prepare to leave this time of worship, give us new wings of determination and energy as we go forward into a new week. Go before us, Lord. Prepare the way for us to bring your goodness into each place. When we are afraid, fill us with courage. When we are energized, help us to overflow with Your joy and creativity. When we are doing mundane, boring tasks, help us to be startled by Your presence. When we are weary, give us Your peace and rest. Fill us afresh ready for each new day.

Leader: Remember, those who hope in the Lord,  
**All: shall renew their strength.**

**As we rejoice in You, may we soar on wings like eagles;  
run and not grow weary,  
walk and not be faint.**

**Amen.**

***Silence may be kept.***

***The Collect of the day is said***

*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***

Believing the promises of God,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**The Conclusion**

*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.**

*All* **We go into the world**

**to walk in God’s light,**

**to rejoice in God’s love**

**and to reflect God’s glory.**

**Amen.**

**Giving**

To give to the Exe Valley Mission Community by BACS, please use account number 54731690 and sort code 60-21-27. Please use the reference *EVMC services*.

To give to St Peter’s Church, please go to [www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk](http://www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk) and follow the donations link on the front page of the website.

Thank you for your support. It is very much appreciated.