**Morning Prayer on the Fourth Sunday before Advent**

Sunday 3 November 2024 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**

Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

*All* **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

God’s light and truth lead us to his holy dwelling place.  
Come, let us draw near,

in the humbling light of God’s love,  
and worship our righteous and awesome God.

Let us open our hearts, our minds,

and our eyes to see the generous gifts of God,

and respond with praise and thanksgiving.

Gracious God, for all you have poured out upon us:  
**we give you thanks.**  
For your Word that has inspired and fed your people;

**we give you thanks.**  
For your love that has surrounded and enfolded us,

that has given us joy, confirmed our faith,

nurtured our love and given us  
enduring hope in the gift of the promise of eternal life:  
**we give you thanks.**  
To you be all praise and glory, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

Diagram

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The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins.

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
we come to you in sorrow for our selfishness,  
in regret for our greed,  
in despair over our blindness and deafness  
to the needs of those around us.  
With penitent hearts we seek your forgiveness,  
and your blessing to make us more generous,  
more giving, more able to see, and more willing to listen.**  
**Amen.**

Our God of generosity forgives those who truly repent.  
Our God lifts the burdens from our hearts  
and the blindness from our eyes  
and sets us free to be the people we are called to be.  
**Amen.**

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Blessed is the Lord

*All* **for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

*All* **and in our song will we praise our God.**

**The Word of God**

*First reading:* Ruth 1: 1-18

**1**In the days when the judges ruled,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth%201&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7129a)] there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. **2**The man’s name was Elimelek, his wife’s name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

**3**Now Elimelek, Naomi’s husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. **4**They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, **5**both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

**6**When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. **7**With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

**8**Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. **9**May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.”

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud **10**and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.”

**11**But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? **12**Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— **13**would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord’s hand has turned against me!”

**14**At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

**15**“Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”

**16**But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. **17**Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” **18**When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All***Thanks be to God**

Psalmody Psalm 43

1    Give judgement for me, O God,

and defend my cause against an ungodly people;

deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.

**2    For you are the God of my refuge;**

**why have you cast me from you,**

**and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?**

3    O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,

and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling,

**4    That I may go to the altar of God,**

**to the God of my joy and gladness;**

**and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God.**

5    Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,

and why are you so disquieted within me?

**6    O put your trust in God;**

**for I will yet give him thanks,**

**who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

Come, creator Spirit, light and truth;

bring us to the altar of life

and renew our joy and gladness

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

*All*  **as it was in the beginning,**

**is now*,* and shall be for ever.**

**Amen.**

*Second reading:*  Mark 12: 28-34

28One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24703e)] 30Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24704f)] 31The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%2012&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24705g)] There is no commandment greater than these.”

32“Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. 33To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

34When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

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

**Intercessions**

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:

**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

Lord, help us to know what ‘love’ actually means in practice. Help it not to be just a theory or an emotion but a way in which we demonstrate who you are to those around us. As we recognise the need to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, help us to be prepared to be willing to love. Help us to work at loving others. Help us to get our hands dirty and our hearts broken because we are willing to serve you wherever, and in whatever way, you lead us.

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:  
**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

Lord, as we look at the world around us, we see so much pain. We see so much sorrow. We see places torn apart by war because we have forgotten how to love our neighbours as ourselves. We pray for Ukraine and all other nations in the world torn apart by aggression, hatred and fear. We pray for an end to all hostilities. Lord, we lift the continuing crisis in the Middle East to you. We cry out to you for the hostages, that they might be freed. We weep for those whose lives have been shattered by destruction of their homes and for all those who mourn those who have died as a result of the conflict. Lord, be especially close to them, we pray. Show us what we can do to relieve some of the suffering. We continue to pray for peace and love to transform the hearts of all who seek violence. We pray that aid will still be able to reach the people of Gaza who so desperately need the basic essentials. Speak peace into the hearts of the leaders of the nations that they may see that your way of truth and love is the only true way forward. Lord, as we weep for the nations of the world:

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:  
**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

Lord, as the US election approaches this week, we pray for Donald Trump and Kamala Harris. Lord, may they stand up for truth, justice and a willingness to serve. We pray for a clear result that leaves no room for uncertainty among the population. May the result unite the country rather than dividing it, we pray. Lord, whoever wins, may they turn to you for their support and strength. We pray for an outpouring of your love across the USA during polling day and beyond.

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:  
**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

Lord, we pray for refugees and all who have to flee their homeland because of violence, famine, injustice or other pain. Lord, help your world to become a place of welcome and compassion where everyone is treated with respect and justice. We pray for all who seek to exploit the poor and oppressed, asking that you would convict them of the wrong they are doing. We pray for those who, even now, are stepping onto cramped, dangerous, inflatable boats seeking solace in another country. Keep them safe. May they be met with kindness and compassion when they land on another shore. Lord, when we meet with those who are different from us, may we be welcoming and servant-hearted, always seeking to treat them as we would like to be treated ourselves.

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:  
**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

Lord, you have called us to love with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. This is a hard calling, so we need your help. We pause for a moment to think of those we find it hard to love… give us grace, Lord, to see them through your eyes. And forgive us, Lord, for the times when we make ourselves unlovable… perhaps in the way we react to criticism, when we want our own way, when we are selfish or argumentative. Lord, forgive us and help us to forgive others too.

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:  
**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

And, Lord, we bring to you those who we love very dearly. We pause to picture them now… Thank you for people in our lives who love us and who we can love in return. Give us grace this week to show them how much we love them and rejoice that they are in our lives.

And, Lord, we pray for those we know who are sick, especially............ Help us to be your caring hands and to speak your calming words to all those we know who are suffering. We lift before you those who are sad at the death of a loved one and remember especially the family and friends of …………….. Bring them your comfort and peace and show us how to weep with them or sit with them in their pain.

Help us to actually, wholeheartedly, deeply love:  
**With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.**

**As we seek to serve you and others with the love with which you served us.**

**Amen.**

*Collect for the Fourth Sunday before Advent*

Almighty and eternal God,

you have kindled the flame of love

in the hearts of the saints:

grant to us the same faith and power of love,

that, as we rejoice in their triumphs,

we may be sustained by their example and fellowship;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with us,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

*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*

The God of all grace,

who called us to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,

establish, strengthen and settle us in the faith;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

remain with us always.

*All* **Amen**.

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**Future events**

**Exe Valley Lunches 12.30pm - 2.30pm**

Thurs 14th November - Templeton Village Hall

Contact the church office to book 01884 250417 or 07733949295

**Bible Study Group**

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

**Tuesday November 26th 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

**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

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