**Morning Prayer The Second Sunday of Advent**

Sunday 8th December 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**

O Lord, open our lips.

*All* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence.

*All* **That we may behold your power and glory.**



Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. In your tender compassion the dawn from on high is breaking upon us to dispel the lingering shadows of night. As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

*All* **Amen.**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All*  **Blessed be God for ever.**

**Act of Penitence**

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

*All* **Lord our God,**

**in our sin we have avoided your call.**

**Our love for you is like a morning cloud,**

**Like the dew that goes away early.**

**Have mercy on us;**

**deliver us from judgement;**

**bind up our wounds and revive us;**

**in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Absolution**

May almighty God have mercy on us,

forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**The Word of God**

*First reading:* Phillippians 1: 3-11

**3**I thank my God every time I remember you. **4**In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy **5**because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, **6**being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**7**It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. **8**God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

**9**And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, **10**so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11**filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

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

 **Canticle**

A Song of the Wilderness. Isaiah 35.1,2b-4a,4c-6,10

Refrain:

**All**   **Lift up your voice with strength,**

**O herald of good tidings.**

1   The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice,

the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

2   They shall see the glory of the Lord,

the majesty of our God.

3   Strengthen the weary hands,

and make firm the feeble knees.

4   Say to the anxious, ‘Be strong, fear not,

your God is coming with judgement,

coming with judgement to save you.’

5   Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

6   Then shall the lame leap like a hart,

and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

7   For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

8   The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing,

with everlasting joy upon their heads.

9   Joy and gladness shall be theirs,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**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.**

*Second reading* Luke 1: 68-79

1    Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,

who has come to his people and set them free.

2    He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,

born of the house of his servant David.

3    Through his holy prophets God promised of old

to save us from our enemies,

    from the hands of all that hate us,

4    To show mercy to our ancestors,

and to remember his holy covenant.

5    This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6    Free to worship him without fear,

holy and righteous in his sight

    all the days of our life.

7     And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the

Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8    To give his people knowledge of salvation

by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9    In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10  To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

This is the word of the Lord

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

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

 *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

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**Intercessions**

**We say with Zechariah, ‘the rising sun will come to us from heaven’**

Lord God, as we gather today to rejoice in your loving plan to send your Son to save the world, we pray for any who are struggling to see the way forward. Worries and difficult situations often seem worse at this time of year, when others are partying and making plans for Christmas and the new year ahead. We pray that your love will enfold them, and your light illuminate their way.

**We say with Zechariah, ‘the rising sun will come to us from heaven’.**

 Father, as we lovingly gather gifts for friends and family, we remember those to whom we can no longer give, because they have gone before us into your presence. We pray for all who feel the absence of loved ones keenly at this time of year. May your love be the bridge between heaven and earth, reminding us that we are apart only for a while.

**We say with Zechariah, ‘the rising sun will come to us from heaven, to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death’.**

 Lord, as Christmas cards land on our doormats, perhaps with letters telling of travel and adventure, or achievements and family pride, we pray for those who have little to tell this year; those who have suffered disappointments and defeats, whose hopes have faltered and come to nothing. Your love is both comfort and encouragement to keep going, to have faith; may your Holy Spirit inspire them to persevere. *We pray especially for …….*

**We say with Zechariah, ‘the rising sun will come to us from heaven, to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the path of peace’.**

 Father, for a war-torn world we pray, and for leaders who must make difficult decisions every day; and for your Church, often struggling to make its voice heard amongst the clamour of opposing views and strife. May we here, in our own community, be carriers of your love to those who are confused by life; bombarded by too much news, bewildered perhaps by choices to be made and their consequences for ourselves and others; let your love reign in our hearts, and bring peace.

**We say, in fulfilment of Zechariah’s song:
‘The rising sun has come to us from heaven.
He shines on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death.
He guides our feet into the path of peace.’**

**Amen.**

*Collect for the day*

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power

and come among us,

and with great might succour us;

that whereas, through our sins and wickedness

we are grievously hindered

in running the race that is set before us,

your bountiful grace and mercy

may speedily help and deliver us;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,

be honour and glory, 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*

May God the Father,

who loved the world so much he sent his only Son,

to come among us in great humility,

open your eyes to look for his coming again.

*All* **Amen**.

 May God the Son,

give you grace to live in the light of his coming as redeemer and judge.

*All* **Amen**.

 May God the Spirit,

free you from sin, make you holy and bring you to eternal life.

*All* **Amen**.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us, and those we love and pray for, today and always.

*All* **Amen**.

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***Future Events***

**Bishop Jackie's Farewell Service & Thank You Gift**
You are warmly invited to Bishop Jackie's Farewell Eucharist Service at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 18 January at 3pm, followed by refreshments. Please feel free to share this invitation to others in your Mission Community.

**Prayer Breakfast at The Rectory**

**The next prayer breakfast will be at 9.00am on Saturday 25 January 2025 with Steph.**

**Advent Compline**

Please join Steph for Advent Compline via Zoom on 5th, 12th and 19th December at 6.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86218583364?pwd=TVozS1VxRDllQUJkWVpQVzY0MXllUT09

Meeting ID: 862 1858 3364

Passcode: 090381

**Exe Valley Community Christmas Lunch**

**Thursday 12 December at 12.30pm at Withleigh Village Hall**

**Bible Study Group**

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

Tuesday 28 January 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

**Contacting Church Office**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am -12 noon

Email: 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, please go to [www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk](http://www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk) and follow the donations link on the front page of the website.