**Morning Prayer on the Third Sunday of Epiphany**

**Sunday 26th January 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**

Lord, as your Church, we gather together to worship you,

in person and online.

You are the source of all being,

the one who gives love and unites us,

the one who gives all our sake.

**Amen**

***A prayer of adoration***

Almighty God, we are a mixed-up bunch of people,

but all unique and special with a common purpose

* to worship you.

You are the bringer of good news,

and the example of what true love is, giving yourself for our sakes.

You are the meaning and motivation for how we choose to live.

You are the light in the darkness that draws us on.

You are the whisper in the wind and the shout in the thunder.

You are the Spirit that warms our hearts.

We worship and adore you.

**Amen**

***A prayer of confession***

All too easily we stray from doing what is good

and right in your sight.

God, **forgive us.**

All too easily we find prejudice creeping into our lives.

God, **forgive us.**

All to easily we become greedy and unwilling

to share with those have less.

God, **forgive us.**

All too easily we neglect the needs of the earth,

animals and humans.

God, **forgive us.**

All too easily we forget the path you set before us.

God, **forgive us.**

**Amen**

***Assurance of forgiveness***

God forgives all who confess.

 Let us know we are forgiven,

 and go and live the Good News.

**Amen.**

*Psalmody*  Psalm 19: 1-6

**1**The heavens declare the glory of God;
    the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
**2**Day after day they pour forth speech;
    night after night they reveal knowledge.
**3**They have no speech, they use no words;
    no sound is heard from them.
**4**Yet their voice[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%2019&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14173b)] goes out into all the earth,
    their words to the ends of the world.
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.
**5**    It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
    like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
**6**It rises at one end of the heavens
    and makes its circuit to the other;
    nothing is deprived of its warmth.

God, our light and our salvation,

illuminate our lives,

that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,

and, looking on your beauty,

may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Glory be 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**

*First reading* Nehemiah 8: 1-3,5-6,8-10

**8 1**all the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel.

**2**So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. **3**He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

**5**Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. **6**Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

**8**They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=nehemiah%208&version=NIV#fen-NIV-12502a)] and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read.

**9**Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

**10**Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

*Canticle* A Song of the Covenant Isaiah 42.5-8a

All **I have given you as a light to the nations,**

**and I have called you in righteousness.**

1Thus says God, who created the heavens,

who fashioned the earth and all that dwells in it;

2 Who gives breath to the people upon it

and spirit to those who walk in it,

3 ‘I am the Lord and I have called you in righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

4 ‘I have given you as a covenant to the people,

a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

5 ‘To bring out the captives from the dungeon,

from the prison, those who sit in darkness.

6 ‘I am the Lord, that is my name;

my glory I give to no other.’

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.**

All   **I have given you as a light to the nations,**

**and I have called you in righteousness.**

*Second reading* Luke 4: 14-21

**14**Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. **15**He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

**16**He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17**and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

**18**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
    because he has anointed me
    to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
    and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
**19**    to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke%204&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25083f)]

**20**Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. **21**He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

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

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**Intercessions**

Let us pray to the Lord,
asking for the help we need to live the good news in a broken world.

Even though answering the call to justice and to peace asks for all we have;
even though life and its demands consume much of our energy;
even though we are anxious about the future:
the joy of the Lord is our strength.

So, with confidence we pray:
**All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.**

Even though living for you at home, at school and at work is often challenging;
even though standing up for what we believe in a sceptical world is tough;
even though we fall short of what you ask of us and we let people down:
the joy of the Lord is our strength.

So, with confidence we pray:
**All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.**

Even though the world is troubled and building the kingdom relies on our small offering of faith;
even though peace is so fragile and hope is hard to come by - remembering especially the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas and the West Bank where fresh violence has broken out;
even though we often lose our way and fail to listen, we can begin again:
the joy of the Lord is our strength.

So, with confidence we pray:
**All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.**

 Even though the world is so often full of suffering;
even though our hearts are troubled by our own pain and by the suffering of others - remembering today those we know who are going through illness, redundancy or life changing events; today we remember especially ……
even though in our distress we do not see the signs of God’s presence with us:
the joy of the Lord is our strength.

So, with confidence we pray:
**All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.**

Even though in the UK the threats of extremism and radicalisation are rising and the surge of online violence seems unstoppable;
even though we are far from the inclusive and equal society
that enables everyone to flourish;
even though good news for the poor and freedom and healing for all will require our time, love, persistence and practical compassion:
the joy of the Lord is our strength.

So, with confidence we pray:
**All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.**

Even though, as Trump begins his presidency, we are alarmed by the flurry of hardline policies including deportation threats against immigrants; withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement and from the World Health Organisation;
even though there is much more to do to make our church communities places of welcome and safety;
even though we often feel powerless against choices that shape all our lives:
the joy of the Lord is our strength.

So, with confidence we pray:
**All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.**

 Even though we feel small and insignificant, the good news is for us to share;
even though the need around us is great; our hands are empty and our courage fails;
even though the gifts we offer seem inadequate:
the joy of the Lord is our strength.

So, with confidence we pray:
**All: send us, lead us, and fill us with your Spirit.**

Merciful Father,

*All* **accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

*Collect for the Third Sunday of Epiphany*

Almighty God,

whose Son revealed in signs and miracles

the wonder of your saving presence:

renew your people with your heavenly grace,

and in all our weakness

sustain us by your mighty power;

through Jesus Christ our Son our Lord,

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*

Believing the promises 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 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*

Christ the Son of God perfect in you

the image of his glory and

gladden your hearts with the

good news of his kingdom.

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**.

**What’s on this week**

**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

**Prayer Breakfast at The Rectory**

The next prayer breakfast will be at 9.00am on Saturday 25 January 2025. Everyone welcome.

**Marriage Preparation Day**

On 1 February, 10.30-2.30pm at Cruwys Morchard Village Hall with Steph.

**Coffee and Chat with Steph**

Steph will be at Banburys from 10.15am on Friday February 14th for coffee and a chat if you would like to join her.

**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.

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