**Morning Prayer for the Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Sunday 18th May 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**

O Lord, open our lips

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

In your resurrection, O Christ,

*All* **let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.**

The one seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’  
 Lord, sometimes we come to church feeling a little bit jaded,  
 perhaps unsure why we feel the way we do.  
 We need a burst of new life.  
 Today, Lord, we come to you with open hearts and minds.  
 Help us to understand your Word to us.  
 Make us ready to experience and embrace  
 your wonderful newness of life.  
 **Amen.**

Lord God, you know every bone in our body,  
 every ache and pain, every beat of our heart, every emotion.  
 You know us inside out.  
 You know when we are joyful, but also when we struggle.  
 We take a moment now to pause and be aware of you.  
 We breathe out our old life  
 and breathe in the gloriousness of your new life.  
 **Amen.**

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.**

The night has passed,

and the day lies open before us.

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Risen Christ,

you filled your disciples

with boldness and fresh hope:

strengthen us to proclaim your risen life

and fill us with your peace,

to the glory of God the Father.

*All* **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Lord, we ask forgiveness for the times  
when we don’t accept your Word because it seems strange to us.  
**Lord, forgive us for not seeing the big picture.**  
For the times when we hang on to the old,  
doing things as we always did.  
**Lord, forgive us…**  
For when we think we are the only ones worthy of your love.  
**Lord, forgive us…**  
For when we make judgements on things we have  
no right to judge.  
**Lord, forgive us...**  
Open our eyes to new life in you.  
**Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

The Spirit tells Peter to have no hesitation and  
to go with the men from Caesarea.  
Lord God, sometimes we are afraid to repent,  
to give ourselves to you.  
Today we come to you unafraid,  
knowing your forgiveness in our hearts  
and grateful beyond measure for the new life you give us.  
**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

First reading: Acts 11: 1-18

**11**The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. **2**So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him **3**and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

**4**Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: **5**“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. **6**I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. **7**Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’

**8**“I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

**9**“The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ **10**This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

**11**“Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

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Psalmody: Psalm 148

**1**Praise the Lord.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20148&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16373a)]

    praise him in the heights above.  
 **2**Praise him, all his angels;  
     praise him, all his heavenly hosts.  
 **3**Praise him, sun and moon;  
     praise him, all you shining stars.  
 **4**Praise him, you highest heavens  
     and you waters above the skies.

**5**Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
     for at his command they were created,  
 **6**and he established them for ever and ever—  
     he issued a decree that will never pass away.

**7**Praise the Lord from the earth,  
     you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,  
 **8**lightning and hail, snow and clouds,  
     stormy winds that do his bidding,  
 **9**you mountains and all hills,  
     fruit trees and all cedars,  
 **10**wild animals and all cattle,  
     small creatures and flying birds,  
 **11**kings of the earth and all nations,  
     you princes and all rulers on earth,  
 **12**young men and women,  
     old men and children.

**13**Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
     for his name alone is exalted;  
     his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.  
 **14**And he has raised up for his people a horn,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20148&version=NIV#fen-NIV-16386b)]  
     the praise of all his faithful servants,  
     of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise 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.**

A black and white drawing of a cross and a sun

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Second reading: John 13: 31-35

**31**When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. **32**If God is glorified in him,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2013&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26663c)] God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

**33**“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

**34**“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. **35**By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

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

**Hands holding up a cross

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Prayers of Intercession

Almighty God, Creator, Redeemer, Comforter, we bring our prayers for the world

Almighty God, Creator, Redeemer, Comforter, we bring our prayers for the world and all of humanity, those near and far, known and unknown.

Almighty God, with violence and quarrels, wars and disputes, fractures and breaks in so much of the world’s society, across so many continents, we pray that more and more people will catch the vison that is yours, to break down the barriers of faith and culture, of race, language and ability. And that leaders of nations will catch the vision to inspire their people to live better, healthier, happier, fairer and more ‘just’ lives.

We pray for the new Pope, Pope Leo, that his vision and vigour for helping the poor and marginalised will spread out to engulf the world and that, together, people of faith and none will grasp the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

We pray for reconciliation for past wars and on-going wars and violence and cruelty. We pray that anger and the desire for more power can be wiped away, making all things new for peace and harmony, acceptance and love.

We pray for those who lurch from one day to the next, uncertain about homes and houses, food and medicine; uncertain about what is there for them and how they can get the help they need and how they can meet bills and pay off debts.

We pray for those who have lost sight of their place in society, lost understanding of how we each need to play our part to help and support each other as best we can, and lost the ability of give and take.

We pray for the ill and those worried about tests and diagnosis and treatment. We pray for those who are near the end of their life alone and afraid. We pray for those who mourn and grieve for love lost and hopes dashed. We pray especially for ………………

May we, in the way we live out our lives, do all we can to make visible God’s love for the world.

In the name of our Almighty God, Creator, Redeemer and Comforter, we offer these prayers and the unspoken prayers of our hearts.

**Amen.**

The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death

and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen 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

Rejoicing in God’s new creation,  
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.**

**A sending out prayer**

Life-giving God, Alpha and Omega, beginning and end,  
journey with us as we go from this place into our communities.  
As we look forward to the time when you will make all things new,  
enable us, by your Spirit, to bring your kingdom here on earth.  
**Amen.**

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.

*All* **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

*All* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

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**What’s on ….**

**Ascension Day Service**

There will be a service for Ascension Day at Stoodleigh at 6.00pm with Steph.

**Exe Valley Community Lunches**

The next lunch is at Stoodleigh Village Hall on June 12th from 12.30pm. Please let the church office if you will be joining us and if you need transport.

**Prayer Breakfast**

The next prayer breakfast with Steph at The Rectory Withleigh is on 28th June at 9.00am. Everyone is 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 June 20th for coffee and a chat if you would like to join her.

**Discipleship Course**

Please join us as we continue with our discipleship course at the Rectory Withleigh. The next meeting will be on Thursday May 15th at 7.00pm.

**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