**Morning Prayer on The Eighth Sunday after Trinity**

Sunday 10th August 2025 at 9.30 (call in from 9.15)

Join Zoom Meeting

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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  
  
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\* When passcode requested type numbers i.e. 336782 plus #.  
  
\* At this point you should be admitted to the call.****

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**Preparation**

Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

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

O Lord, open our lips

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

Blessed are you, creator of all,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As your dawn renews the face of the earth,

bringing light and life to all creation,

may we rejoice in this day you have made.

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Steadfast God,  
we praise you for the precious gift of faith,  
which gives substance to our hopes,  
draws us on towards your kingdom and unites us  
as we journey together through all the ups-and-downs of life.  
In you we trust, faithful Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

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.

*All* **Amen.**

### A prayer of confession

We are sorry, gracious God, for the fragility of our faith,  
which waivers when things get tough,  
wobbles when confidence gets low,  
gives up when the road gets steep,  
loses sight of how far you have brought us  
and forgets that you are there by our side.  
Please forgive us, bolster us, empower us and use us  
to build up the faith of others.  
We ask this in Jesus’ name.  
**Amen.**

### Assurance of forgiveness

Eternal God, your faith in us doesn’t waiver,  
your love for us doesn’t wane;  
your trust never flickers;  
your grace never fails.  
And so, with thankful hearts, we receive your forgiveness  
and go forward in faith, in your strength and with your blessing.  
**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

First reading:Hebrews 1:1-34. 8-16

### Faith in Action

**11**Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. **2**This is what the ancients were commended for. **3**By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

**8**By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. **9**By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. **10**For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. **11**And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=hebrews%2011&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30184b)] considered him faithful who had made the promise. **12**And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

**13**All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. **14**People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. **15**If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. **16**Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm Psalm 33:12-22

**12**Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
    the people he chose for his inheritance.  
**13**From heaven the Lord looks down  
    and sees all mankind;  
**14**from his dwelling place he watches  
    all who live on earth—  
**15**he who forms the hearts of all,  
    who considers everything they do.

**16**No king is saved by the size of his army;  
    no warrior escapes by his great strength.  
**17**A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;  
    despite all its great strength it cannot save.  
**18**But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him,  
    on those whose hope is in his unfailing love,  
**19**to deliver them from death  
    and keep them alive in famine.

**20**We wait in hope for the Lord;  
    he is our help and our shield.  
**21**In him our hearts rejoice,  
    for we trust in his holy name.  
**22**May your unfailing love be with us, Lord,  
    even as we put our hope in you.

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: Luke 12:32-40

**32**“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. **33**Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. **34**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**35**“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, **36**like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. **37**It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. **38**It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. **39**But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. **40**You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

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

**Hands holding up a cross

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**Intercessions**

Lord, when life is hard and when life is good  
**Help us to keep going, with our eyes fixed on you.**

Lord, we come to you today from different homes, different stages of life, different situations. We come with the memories of the week just passed and our thoughts about the week ahead. We come with our joys and our sorrows, our good days and bad, our hopes and our fears. We come, knowing that you listen, you care and you long for us to pour out our hearts to you.

We pause to think of a time this week that made us smile, even if only for a moment… Thank you for those times of positivity, of happiness, humour or joy. Thank you that you smile with us. We pause to think of something good that you have given us this week: a kind word, some lovely food, the sound of a child’s laughter, welcome rain… Thank you that you are the giver of good gifts. Help us to treasure everything good that comes from your hands.

Lord, when life is hard and when life is good  
**Help us to keep going, with our eyes fixed on you.**

Lord, we know that there have also been some difficult moments in our lives this week. Times when we were confused, sad, in pain, lonely or lost… we name them in our hearts now.

Lord, we know in our heads that you are with us in those times, but sometimes our hearts feel as if you are looking the other way. Give us the confidence, like Abraham and Sarah, to know that, despite everything, you are there and you do care. Help us not to give up on you because you never give up on us.

Lord, when life is hard and when life is good  
**Help us to keep going, with our eyes fixed on you.**

But we are also aware of those who have had bad news this week: a difficult diagnosis, a bereavement, sickness, plans that have gone very wrong... (PRAYER LIST) Lord, we ask you to help us be the caring presence in these difficult times, bringing the touch of your love into every situation of pain. Breathe your comfort onto those who are hurting, we pray. May they be assured that you never leave or forsake them.

Lord, when life is hard and when life is good  
**Help us to keep going, with our eyes fixed on you.**

We pray for our leaders when government is on recess. May they still be alert to any needs that require attention. We pray that there will not be any unrest in regard to those seeking asylum. We pray for migrants travelling in unsafe boats. Show us how, as people of justice, we can stop the people smugglers who treat others as commodities rather than people made in your image.

Lord, when life is hard and when life is good  
**Help us to keep going, with our eyes fixed on you.**

We turn our prayers to the wider world. Lord, sometimes we feel so helpless when we see war and suffering on our TV screens and newsfeeds. We cry out to you for the Middle East, asking that aid will reach Gaza and the malnutrition will be abated. We pray for all who are peacemakers in the Middle East, Ukraine and any other conflicts not so prominent in the news, like the war in Sudan. May wisdom, justice and the needs of the weakest and most helpless be at the forefront of all negotiations.

Lord, when life is hard and when life is good  
**Help us to keep going, with our eyes fixed on you.**

Lord, we bring all these prayers to you, knowing that we only see in part. You see the bigger picture and hold all things in your hand. Give us the faith to know you are in control. Lord, sometimes this world seems too painful and we long for that better country to come soon – the new heaven and new earth you have promised us. Give us the faith to wait for your perfect timing. But, when we pray ‘Thy kingdom come’, help us to be the answer to our prayers. Send us out from here renewed and revived to take your goodness, your kindness, your love and your justice to everyone we will meet this week and into every situation. Give us the courage to witness to you and may lives be changed as a result. Help us to bring the treasure of your kingdom and the flavour of your beauty everywhere we go.

Lord, when life is hard and when life is good  
**Help us to keep going, with our eyes fixed on you. Bring in your kingdom through us, we pray.**  
**Amen.**

Collect for the Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Lord God,

your Son left the riches of heaven

and became poor for our sake:

when we prosper save us from pride,

when we are needy save us from despair,

that we may trust in you alone;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

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.**

As you go, may the God of Abraham and Sarah go with you.  
May you be ready to meet Jesus whenever he comes to you,  
and may you know yourself held within the love of God,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The peace of God,

which passes all understanding,

keep your hearts and minds

in the knowledge and love of God,

and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among us and those whom we love,

and remain with us always.

*All* **Amen.**

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**What’s on ….**

**Bible Study**

The next Bible study will be on Monday 11 August at The Cottage Washfield at 2.30pm with Tim Gorringe. We are looking at Paul’s letters to the Galatians.

**Exe Valley Community Lunches**

The next lunch is at North Esworthy Farm Oakford on August 14th from 12.30pm. Please let the church office know if you will be joining us and if you need transport.

**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 the church office on 07733949295. Only first initials will be used on the prayer chain to ensure total confidentiality.

**Contacting Church Office.**

Email: [office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org)

Tel: Dawn on 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.

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