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

Sunday 21st April 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.

*The Greeting*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*All* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In your resurrection, O Christ,

*All* **Let heaven and earth rejoice.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Safe in the knowledge that we are loved,  
we come to the Good Shepherd  
seeking succour for our souls.  
Let not the wolf snatch our thoughts and scatter them,  
for our minds belong to Jesus,  
and our hearts are open to him.  
**Amen.**

*Easter Anthems*

1Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:

*All* **so let us celebrate the feast,**

2not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:

*All* **but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

*1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8*

3Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:

*All* **death has no more dominion over him.**

4In dying he died to sin once for all:

*All* **in living he lives to God.**

5See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:

*All* **and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Romans 6.9–11*

6Christ has been raised from the dead:

*All* **the first fruits of those who sleep.**

7For as by man came death:

*All* **by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;**

8for as in Adam all die:

*All* **even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

*1 Corinthians 15.20–22*

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.**

*Prayer*

The night has passed,

and the day lies open before us.

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Faithful God,

Let your word be the treasure of our hearts,

that we may delight in your truth

and walk in the glorious liberty

of your Son Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*The Word of God*

1 John 3: 16-24

**16**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. **17**If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? **18**Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

**19**This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: **20**If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. **21**Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God **22**and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. **23**And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. **24**The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

This is the word of the Lord.

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

*Psalm 23*

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
**2    He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
3**    he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
    for his name’s sake.  
**4Even though I walk  
    through the darkest valley,   
I will fear no evil,  
    for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
    they comfort me.**

**5**You prepare a table before me  
    in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
    my cup overflows.  
**6Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
    all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
    forever.**

*All* **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now and ever more shall be,**

**world without end. Amen.**

*John 10: 11-18*

**11**“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12**The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. **13**The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

**14**“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— **15**just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. **16**I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. **17**The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. **18**No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

This is the word of the Lord.

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

*Reflection*

*Prayers of Intercession*

Gracious God, it is our privilege to pray for your world and your people. We pray for those who are in the news today, whether willingly or not.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for our church community, our life together in Christ, and our witness to the world.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for those who we’ve met or talked to who have some important issue to face. Especially we pray for dilemmas faced by our own family and friends.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for those coping with stress at work, at home, or in life generally – feeling that the world is a dark place. Especially we pray for those who are unwell… and those who have recently been bereaved.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for those who are waiting for something important – a birth, a job, a visit, a hospital appointment, a word of forgiveness. Especially we pray for those we know who are longing for love and friendship, and a way out of loneliness.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Father, Good Shepherd to us all, every person we have mentioned in our hearts is known and loved by you. We entrust them to you in confidence and hope, knowing that you will use our prayers for their healing and well-being, for we ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who is alive forever with you and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The Collect*

Almighty God,

Whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:

raise us, who trust in him,

from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,

that we may seek those things which are above,

where he reigns with you

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.**

*The Blessing*

God the Father,

by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,

open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

*All* **Amen.**

God the Son,

who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,

give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

*All* **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,

whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,

empower you and fill you with Christ’s peace.

*All* **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be amongst you and remain

with you this day and always.

*All* **Amen.**

*Sending out*

*All* **Merciful Father,**

**you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,**

**and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:**

**keep us always under his protection,**

**and give us grace to follow in his steps:**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*A service from New Patterns for Worship. Compilation copyright © The Archbishops Council 2002*

*New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the*

*National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

**Giving**

To give to the Exe Valley Mission Community by BACS, please use account number 54731690 and sort code 60-21-27. Please use the reference *EVMC services*.

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.

Thank you for your support. It is much appreciated.