**Morning Prayer for the Third Sunday of Lent**

Sunday 3rd March 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.**

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

*All* **according to your judgement give us life.**

Holy God, as we meet together today

we ask that you will renew our love for you.

Open our eyes, we pray, to see fresh things;

open our ears to hear with greater clarity;

open our minds to recognise new ideas.

Make us willing to grow and change

and to become more like your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord in whose name we pray.

*All* **Amen.**

A Song of Penitence Psalm 51.1-5, 12-15

1. Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;

*All* **according to the abundance of your compassion  
blot out my offences.**

1. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness

*All* **and cleanse me from my sin.**

1. For I acknowledge my faults

*All* **and my sin is ever before me.**

1. Against you only have I sinned

*All* **and done what is evil in your sight,**

1. So that you are justified in your sentence

*All* **and righteous in your judgement.**

1. Cast me not away from your presence

*All* **and take not your holy spirit from me.**

1. Give me again the joy of your salvation

*All* **and sustain me with your gracious spirit;**

1. Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked

*All* **and sinners shall return to you.**

1. Deliver me from my guilt, O God,  
   the God of my salvation,

*All* **and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

*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.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

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.**

**The Word of God**

**Psalmody** Psalm 18.1-12

*All* **The Lord my God shall make my darkness to be bright.**

1 I love you, O Lord my strength.   
The Lord is my crag, my fortress and my deliverer,

2 My God, my rock in whom I take refuge,   
my shield, the horn of my salvation and my stronghold.

3 I cried to the Lord in my anguish   
and I was saved from my enemies.

*All* **The Lord my God shall make my darkness to be bright.**

4 The cords of death entwined me   
and the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

5 The cords of the Pit fastened about me   
and the snares of death entangled me.

6 In my distress I called upon the Lord   
and cried out to my God for help.

7 He heard my voice in his temple   
and my cry came to his ears.

*All* **The Lord my God shall make my darkness to be bright.**

10 He parted the heavens and came down   
and thick darkness was under his feet.

11 He rode upon the cherubim and flew;   
he came flying on the wings of the wind.

12 He made darkness his covering round about him,   
dark waters and thick clouds his pavilion.

*All* **The Lord my God shall make my darkness to be bright.**

*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.**

**First reading** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

18For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
    and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the word of the Lord.

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

**Canticle** A Song of the Word of the Lord Isaiah 55.6-11

*All* **Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,  
to our God, who will richly pardon.**

1 Seek the Lord while he may be found, •  
call upon him while he is near;

2 Let the wicked abandon their ways, •  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

3 Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; •  
to our God, who will richly pardon.

*All* **Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,  
to our God, who will richly pardon.**

4 ‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, •  
neither are your ways my ways,’ says the Lord.

5 ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, •  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*All* **Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,  
to our God, who will richly pardon.**

6 ‘As the rain and the snow come down from above, •  
and return not again but water the earth,

7 ‘Bringing forth life and giving growth, •  
seed for sowing and bread to eat,

8 ‘So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; •  
it will not return to me fruitless,

9 ‘But it will accomplish that which I purpose, •  
and succeed in the task I gave it.’

*All* **Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,  
to our God, who will richly pardon.**

*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**  John 2:13-22

13The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables.

15Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. 16He told those who were selling the doves, ‘Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a market-place!’ 17His disciples remembered that it was written, ‘Zeal for your house will consume me.’

18The Jews then said to him, ‘What sign can you show us for doing this?’ 19Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’ 20The Jews then said, ‘This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?’ 21But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

*We pause to reflect on the readings.*

**Prayers**

Lord of the universe, we pray for our world

broken by persecution, warfare and strife.

You desire harmony within and between nations;

you yearn for everyone to know security and safety.

Lord of the world and Lord of the church

*All* **bring healing and peace.**

Lord of the poor and the rich,

we pray for those who live and labour in countries

where they are paid less than they need to survive.

We commend to your tender love

all who are exploited.

You desire justice for all people;

you yearn for all people to be treated fairly and equitably.

Lord of the world and Lord of the church

*All* **bring healing and peace.**

Lord of the sick and those who care for them,

we commend to you

those who are suffering, and those who are frightened and anxious.

You desire wholeness and health for all people;

you yearn for an end to suffering.

Lord of the world and Lord of the church

*All* **bring healing and peace.**

Lord of all in need,

we bring to you the prayers of our hearts.

We commend to you those about whom we are especially concerned, praying for the sick …

and the bereaved …

you desire that your children care for one another.

Lord of the world and Lord of the church

*All* **bring healing and peace.**

The Collect for the Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy

but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we,

walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Trusting in the compassion 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.**

**The Conclusion**

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

*All* **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

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

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**Future Events**

There will be a Service of Compline Prayer at 6.30pm on all the Wednesdays in Lent on Zoom, (with the exception of Wednesday 28 February). Everyone is welcome to join with Steph in this service.

**Exe Valley Lunch 12.30 pm – 2.30pm Thursday 14 March at Stoodleigh Village Hall**

Contact Church Office to book. Email: [office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org) Tel:01884 250417

EXE VALLEY COMMUNITY CHOIR

The choir will be singing on Palm Sunday, March 24th at the Church

of the Holy Cross Cruwys Morchard, 10.45am.

All rehearsals start at 7.30pm and the dates are:

7 March - Oakford

14 March - Calverleigh

21 March - Templeton Village Hall

Everyone is welcome to join the choir so please come along.

Contact Claire Curtis on 07873 575276 for further details.

**28 March - Agape Meal - Withleigh - 6.30pm.** Please let the church office know if you are coming to help with catering, thank you. [office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org) Tel:01884 250417

**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.