**Morning Prayer for Palm Sunday**

Sunday 24th 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.

**A close up of a plant

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**Preparation**

In the name of the living God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

O Lord, open our lips

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

Give us the joy of your saving help,

*All* **and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.**

God shows his love for us in that,

while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Let us then show our love for him

by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart.

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power

forgive us and free us from our sins,

heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,

and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

*All* **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 offer the day to God.*

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.**

*First reading* Zechariah 9:9-12

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
   Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
   triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
   on a colt, the foal of a donkey.   
10 He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
   and the warhorse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,  
   and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
   and from the River to the ends of the earth.   
11 As for you also,

because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
   I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.   
12 Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
   today I declare that I will restore to you double.

*The Blessing of Palms*

Dear friends in Christ, during Lent we have been preparing by works of love and self-sacrifice for the celebration of our Lord’s death and resurrection. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the church throughout the world.

Christ enters his own city to complete his work as our Saviour, to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us go with him in faith and love so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life.

A picture containing knife

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With the cross before us, we pray:

God our Saviour,

whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah

to suffer and to die,

let the cross be for us the sign of his victory;

and grant that we who bear it in his name

may ever hail him as our King,

and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life;

who lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit,

now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*St Theodulph of Orleans (d. 821)  
Trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) alt.*

*Epistle* Philippians 2:5-11

5Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,   
6 who, though he was in the form of God,  
   did not regard equality with God  
   as something to be exploited,   
7 but emptied himself,  
   taking the form of a slave,  
   being born in human likeness.  
 And being found in human form,   
8   he humbled himself  
   and became obedient to the point of death—  
   even death on a cross.

9 Therefore God also highly exalted him  
   and gave him the name that is above every name,   
10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
   in heaven and on earth and under the earth,   
11 and every tongue should confess  
   that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
   to the glory of God the Father.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race

sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example

of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*Gospel* Mark 11:1-11

111When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples 2and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. 3If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’”

4They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, 5some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” 6They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.

7Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. 8Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.

A black and white drawing of a person on a horse

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9Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

10Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

11Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

*We pause to reflect on the readings*

Intercessions

We welcome Jesus.

**We welcome the king.**

As we look forward to God’s kingdom, we hope for a time when peace will be the foundation and aim of all nations. We look to the leaders of nations, where peace is not present, and we call them to respond to the suffering and heartache around them by negotiating and bringing peace. Among other places, we remember Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, North Korea, Haiti and Sudan.

God of all, you made everything and everyone. We pray that people will respond to your desire for all to live lives of peace and that hope would defeat harm. We pray for all those whose families, lives and futures have been destroyed by war and conflict.

We welcome Jesus.

**We welcome the king.**

As we look forward to God’s kingdom, we hope for a time when love and care are the foundation for all that we do. We give thanks for those in caring professions and those who look after others.

God of all, you call all people who are willing to hear. We pray for our health professionals, education staff, parents and carers. We pray that they would be encouraged and strengthened in these times of tight budgets and lack of resources. We remember children and young people who may be facing worries and challenges, and we ask for your help for all who are struggling because of physical or mental health. May they and all in need feel your comfort and healing.

We welcome Jesus.

**We welcome the king.**

As we look forward to God’s kingdom, we hope for a time when all will feel safe, protected and well. We ask that those who cause harm through bullying, abuse, internet stalking and cruel messaging may repent of the pain and damage they have caused.

God of all, you created us to live in safety. We pray for the police, the criminal justice system and all who work to protect others and investigate those who case harm. We pray for laws to be used wisely, so young and old alike can live free of fear of abuse and bullying. We pray for those who lead and set examples to young people that they would be wise in showing the risks of social media.

We welcome Jesus.

**We welcome the king.**

As we look forward to God’s kingdom, we hope for a time when all be full of the enjoyment of life and will grow in faith in you. We look to those who lead us in church, in our country and our neighbourhoods, that they would work to keep people safe and happy and that they would have the wisdom to spend limited money wisely.

God of all, you give us all we need. We pray for our government and parliament. We pray for local elections in a few weeks and the campaigning that has just started. We remember our church leaders here and in this area and ask that they would work together across denominations to bring the life and growth that can be found in Jesus to our friends and neighbours.

We welcome Jesus.

**We welcome the king.**

As we look forward to God’s kingdom, and remembering that amazing journey into Jerusalem, we look to ourselves. May each one of us, young and old, know the love of God through the gift of Jesus, the power of God through Jesus’ death and the joy of God through his resurrected life.

God of each one of us, you know all we are and all we need. We pray for ourselves.

May we hear your call on our lives and do all we can to share your love and your kingdom with others.

Amen.

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Standing at the foot of the cross,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father,**

**who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,   
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;   
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory,   
for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

*Blessing*

Christ crucified draw us to himself,  
to find in him a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sins forgiven;  
and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be amongst us and remain with us always.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ.

*All*  **Amen.**

**A close up of a plant

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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 COMMUNITY CHOIR

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

of the Holy Cross Cruwys Morchard, 10.45am.

**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.