**Morning Prayer - First Sunday of Christmas**

Sunday 29th December 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.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence.

*All* **That we may behold your power and glory.**

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Description automatically generated**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. In your tender compassion the dawn from on high is breaking upon us to dispel the lingering shadows of night. As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All*  **Blessed be God for ever.**

**Act of Penitence**

God our Father,

you sent your Son full of grace and truth:

forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus our Saviour,

you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:

forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit of Love,

your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:

forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

***Absolution***

May God who loved the world so much

that he sent his Son to be our Saviour

forgive us our sins

and make us holy to serve him in the world,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*All* **Amen.**

**The Word of God**

*First reading:* 1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26

18But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. 20Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the Lord give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Samuel%202&version=NIV#fen-NIV-7261c)] the Lord.” Then they would go home.

26And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favour with the Lord and with people.

This is the word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 148: 7-14**

**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.**

### *Second reading* Luke 2: 41-end

**41**Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. **42**When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. **43**After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. **44**Thinking he was in their company, they travelled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. **45**When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. **46**After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. **47**Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. **48**When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”

**49**“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?”[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%202&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25023f)] **50**But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

**51**Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. **52**And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

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

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**Intercessions**

Let us pray to Jesus our Lord,

who forever lives making intercession for us.

**Lord, comfort, and reunite them.**

We pray for those who, like Mary and Joseph, have suffered the trauma of their child going missing –  
**Lord, comfort, and reunite them.**

For those whose sons have been taken to be child soldiers in places of conflict –  
**Lord, comfort, and reunite them.**

For those whose daughters have been taken and abused in places of brutality –  
**Lord, comfort, and reunite them.**

For those who have become separated when they have fled from places of danger –  
**Lord, comfort, and reunite them.**

For those who do not know where their children are –  
**Lord, comfort, and reunite them,**  
**for love's sake.**  
**Amen.**

The Collect for the First Sunday of Christmas:

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again, and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our 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*

*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.**

*Blessing*

Father of all,

you have given us your Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Welcome us your children into your kingdom

to enjoy your presence for ever.

**Amen**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us, and those we love and pray for, today and always.

*All* **Amen**.

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**Contacting Church Office**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am -12 noon

Email: [office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org) Tel:01884 250417 or 07733949295

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