**Morning Prayer – 1st Sunday of Epiphany- The Baptism of Christ**

Sunday 12th January 2025 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.**

Your light springs up for the righteous

*All* **and all the peoples have seen your glory.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,

king of the nations,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

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 From the rising of the sun to its setting

your name is proclaimed in all the world.

as the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts

anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit

that we may witness to your gospel

and sing your praise in all the earth.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Father of all,
who created the heavens and the earth,
thank you that we are your beloved.
Your Holy Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove.
May your Spirit meet us where we are today.
May your Spirit breathe new life into us today.
May you hold us with your righteous right hand.
In Jesus’ name.
**Amen.**

*The Jubilate – A Song of Joy*

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*All* **O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;**

**serve the Lord with gladness**

**and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know that the Lord is God;**

**it is he that has made us and we are his;**

**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving**

**and his courts with praise;**

**give thanks to him and bless his name.**

**For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting, and his faithfulness endures**

**from generation to generation.**

**Glory be 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.

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**

*First reading* Isaiah 43: 1-7

**43**But now, this is what the Lord says—
    he who created you, Jacob,
    he who formed you, Israel:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
    I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
**2**When you pass through the waters,
    I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
    they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
    you will not be burned;
    the flames will not set you ablaze.
**3**For I am the Lord your God,
    the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour;
I give Egypt for your ransom,
    Cush[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2043&version=NIV#fen-NIV-18509a)] and Seba in your stead.
**4**Since you are precious and honoured in my sight,
    and because I love you,
I will give people in exchange for you,
    nations in exchange for your life.
**5**Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
    I will bring your children from the east
    and gather you from the west.
**6**I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’
    and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’
Bring my sons from afar
    and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
**7**everyone who is called by my name,
    whom I created for my glory,
    whom I formed and made.”

 This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

*Canticle* *from* Ezekiel chapter 36

*All* **The Spirit of God fills the whole world.**

1 I will take you from the nations,

and gather you from all the countries.

2 I will sprinkle clean water upon you,

and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness.

3 A new heart I will give you,

and put a new spirit within you,

4 and I will remove from your body the heart of stone

and give you a heart of flesh.

You shall be my people, and I will be your God.

*All* **Glory be 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.**

*All* **The Spirit of God fills the whole world.**

*Second reading* Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

**15**The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. **16**John answered them all, “I baptize you with[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25042b)] water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%203&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25042c)] the Holy Spirit and fire. **17**His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

**21**When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened **22**and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

### 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**

Strengthen your people, O Lord; Surround us with your peace.

When we walk through the flood
and the world seems dangerous and unpredictable
May we not be afraid!
Help us to know that you are with us and will never leave us.

Strengthen your people, O Lord.
**All: Surround us with your peace.**

When social media spreads misinformation, mistrust and hate
and where many voices compete for our loyalty and attention;
give us wisdom in choosing where we place our trust.
Help us to challenge lies with facts.

Strengthen your people, O Lord.
**All: Surround us with your peace.**

When the vulnerable go cold and many children live in poverty
but others enjoy luxury and plenty
and close their eyes and hearts to the need all around:
help us to hear your call to build a more equal world.

Strengthen your people, O Lord.
**All: Surround us with your peace.**

When conflict destroys hope and life and reduces neighbourhoods to rubble
across the Middle East, in Ukraine, in South Sudan, in Yemen;
keep us believing that a new future is possible.
Help us to restore what has been shattered by war and fear.

Strengthen your people, O Lord.
**All: Surround us with your peace.**

When leadership fails and there is dissatisfaction with political responses
and insurgency seems appealing in the name of change;
give us wisdom and patience for the long-term work that is needed.
Help us to pray continually for all with leadership roles in church and in society.

Strengthen your people, O Lord.
**All: Surround us with your peace.**

When people are in danger and homes and businesses
are destroyed by wildfire, floods or earthquakes,
may we remember our true security in you.
Give courage to emergency and rescue services, hospital staff and all who seek to mend broken bodies and lives.
Help us to show compassion to all in need.

Strengthen your people, O Lord.
**All: Surround us with your peace.**

When suffering comes and we walk through the dark
not knowing if we have enough strength for tomorrow;
give to us what we need to manage this day
and be close to those we know who are in need.

We remember especially …..
Help us not to lose hope.

Strengthen your people, O Lord.
**All: Surround us with your peace.**

 *All* **Amen.**

Merciful Father,

*All* **accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

*Collect for the Baptism of Christ*

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us,

who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling

as your adopted children;

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*

May God the Father,

who led the wise men by the shining of a star

to find the Christ, the Light from Light,

lead us also in our pilgrimage to find the Lord.

May God the Son,

who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,

transform our lives and make glad our hearts.

 May God the Holy Spirit,

who came upon the beloved Son

at his baptism in the River Jordan,

pour out his gifts

on us who have come to the waters of new birth.

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among us and remain with us

and those we love and pray for

today and always.

*****All* **Amen**.

**Contacting Church Office**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am -12 noon

Email: office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org Tel:01884 250417 or 07733949295

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**Giving to the Exe Valley Mission Community**

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