**Morning Prayer on the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany - Candlemas**

**Sunday 2nd February 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:**

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Description automatically generated\* 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.**

Loving God,

your love is immeasurably more than we could ever understand.

Draw us deeper into the truth of your love for us

and help us to reflect that love in our daily lives.

**Amen**

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The night has passed, and the day lies open before us.

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Lord, help us to hear your word, and to speak it.  
Help us to know your truth, and to show it.  
Help us to feel your love, and to share it.  
In Jesus’ name.

**Amen.**

**A prayer of confession**

We are sorry, God, that we are often weak and helpless.

**Come O God, you are our Saviour, forgive us**

We are sorry, God, that we do not always like to hear the truth because it hurts.

**Come O God, you are our Saviour, forgive us.**

We are sorry, God, that we so often lack motivation

to speak out about the way of life and the gift of love you give to us.

**Come O God, you are our Saviour, forgive us.**

**Amen**

**Assurance of forgiveness**

God, who is full of mercy, hears our confession,

Knows our penitence

And forgives us our sins, our wrongdoing,

Our outbursts and our silences.

Thanks be to God.

**Amen**

Psalmody Psalm 24: 7-end

**7**Lift up your heads, you gates;  
    be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
    that the King of glory may come in.  
**8**Who is this King of glory?  
    The Lord strong and mighty,  
    the Lord mighty in battle.  
**9**Lift up your heads, you gates;  
    lift them up, you ancient doors,  
    that the King of glory may come in.  
**10**Who is he, this King of glory?  
    The Lord Almighty—  
    he is the King of glory.

**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.

Lord, help us to hear your word, and to speak it.  
Help us to know your truth, and to show it.  
Help us to feel your love, and to share it.  
In Jesus’ name.

**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

First reading: 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

**13**If I speak in the tongues[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2013&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28667a)] of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **2**If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3**If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%2013&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28669b)] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

**4**Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5**It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6**Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7**It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

**8**Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. **9**For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10**but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. **11**When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. **12**For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

**13**And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

*Canticle:* A Song of the Bride *Isaiah 61:10,11; 62:1-3*

*All* **God makes righteousness and praise**

**blossom before all the nations.**

1    I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,

my soul shall exult in my God;

2    Who has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

and has covered me with the cloak of integrity,

3    As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

*All* **God makes righteousness and praise**

**blossom before all the nations.**

4    For as the earth puts forth her blossom,

and as seeds in the garden spring up,

5    So shall God make righteousness and praise

blossom before all the nations.

*All* **God makes righteousness and praise**

**blossom before all the nations.**

6    For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,

and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest,

7    Until her deliverance shines out like the dawn,

and her salvation as a burning torch.

*All* **God makes righteousness and praise**

**blossom before all the nations.**

8    The nations shall see your deliverance,

and all rulers shall see your glory;

9    Then you shall be called by a new name

which the mouth of God will give.

10  You shall be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord,

a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

**and to the Holy Spirit.**

**God makes righteousness and praise**

**blossom before all the nations.**

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Second reading: Luke 4: 21-30

**21**He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

**22**All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

**23**Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

**24**“Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. **25**I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. **26**Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. **27**And there were many in Israel with leprosy[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%204&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25091g)] in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

**28**All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. **29**They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. **30**But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*  **Thanks be to God**

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

**A hands folded over a book

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**Intercessions**

**Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

God of strength and gentleness, we bring to you in prayer:  
those whose lives are really tough,  
those whose homes have been damaged by storms or flood or fire,  
those who have no homes and no resources,  
those struggling to meet the needs of those they care for,  
and those denied access to education and the basic joys of life,  
especially the women of Afghanistan.

**Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

We pray for all those called to speak tough words.  
We especially pray for:  
your church throughout the world  
that she would be the voice of truth and justice and mercy,  
those persecuted for sharing the Gospel,  
and our fellowship of faith here, that we would be people of integrity and courage as we tackle the challenges that face our communities and our nation.  
**Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

We pray for all those entrusted with making tough decisions:  
we pray for our politicians as they manage budgets  
and make policies affecting so many lives,  
we pray for those in the NHS as they manage both crisis  
and the day-to-day needs of patients,  
we pray for all managing household budgets that are stretched  
and for those overwhelmed with anxiety.  
**Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have received tough news, particularly those we know who are: struggling with illness, with redundancy, with the breakdown of a relationship, with bad results, and those who have been bereaved suddenly and shockingly. Today we pray especially for ….  
**Lord Jesus hear our prayer**

We pray for everyone struggling to cope with the tough headlines  
we see on our screens and in our papers day after day.  
We pray for those whose lives we glimpse and are moved by:  
for all the young lives threatened by and lost to violence,  
for all those impacted by the dark web,  
for all struggling with the pressures of social media,  
and we pray for one another and for all in need of your tough love today  
- your challenging, affirming and transformational love.  
**Lord Jesus hear our prayer  
Amen.**

*Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany*

God our creator,

who in the beginning

commanded the light to shine out of darkness:

we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ

may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,

shine into the hearts of all your people,

and reveal the knowledge of your glory

in the face of 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.**

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*The Lord’s Prayer*

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.**

*Blessing*

Christ the Son of God perfect in you

the image of his glory,

and gladden your hearts

with the good news of his kingdom;

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.**

**Sending out prayer**

Loving God, thank you for your great love for us,  
love which is patient, kind, protecting and persevering.  
Help us to take your love out with us this week  
and show it to those who feel they are outside of your family.  
Give us your heart for those who don’t yet know you.  
We ask this in Jesus’ name.  
**Amen.**

**What’s on this week**

**Prayer Breakfast at The Rectory**

The next prayer breakfast will be at 9.00am on Saturday 15 February 2025. Everyone welcome.

**Prayer Chain**

The Exe Valley Mission Community are starting a telephone prayer chain. If you like to be included for prayer or know someone who would like to be included, please contact Steph at the church office 01884 250417. Only first initials will be used on the prayer chain to ensure total confidentiality.

**Coffee and Chat with Steph**

Steph will be at Banburys from 10.15am on Friday February 14th for coffee and a chat if you would like to join her.

**Practicing the Way – A course for Lenten Discipleship**

Steph will be running this course during Lent at The Rectory Withleigh.

Thursday 13, 20 & 27 March and Thursday 3 April at 11.00am & 7.00pm.

Please come along when you can and encourage others to sign up. Please let the church office know when you can come. 01884 250417

**Contacting Church Office**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am -12 noon

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

**Giving**

**Giving to the Exe Valley Mission Community**

If you would like to make a contribution to the work of The Exe Valley Mission Community please make a gift using the Exe Valley Group of Churches BACS details. Please use the reference EVMC Services.

**Account Name:** Exe Valley Group of Churches

**Sort Code:**60-21-27

**Account No:** 54731690

Cheques should be made payable to: 'Exe Valley Group of Churches'

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.

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