**Morning Prayer for Palm Sunday**

Sunday 13th April 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.****

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**Preparation**

In the name of the living God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God of surprises, riding on a donkey,  
not the obvious kind of king,  
we come to follow you with palms and praises,  
cloaks and crosses,  
thankful that we are all welcome.

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.

**A prayer of confession**

Dear Lord, hatred engulfed you, but you reacted with love.  
Forgive us for when we’ve reacted badly in the face of animosity.  
Forgive us when we let fear of what others think stop us  
from doing your will.  
Lord, you came as a man of the people. Though you were without sin, you did not look to be served but to serve.  
Forgive us our pride. Help us to humbly follow you and  
to seek to serve others, to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

**Assurance of forgiveness**

We have reason to celebrate. Our blessed, sovereign Lord became human to bring about our salvation.  
Through his suffering on the cross we are forgiven.

**Amen.**

*First reading* Isaiah 50: 4-9a

**4**The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue,  
     to know the word that sustains the weary.  
 He wakens me morning by morning,  
     wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.  
 **5**The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears;  
     I have not been rebellious,  
     I have not turned away.  
 **6**I offered my back to those who beat me,  
     my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;  
 I did not hide my face  
     from mocking and spitting.  
 **7**Because the Sovereign Lord helps me,  
     I will not be disgraced.  
 Therefore have I set my face like flint,  
     and I know I will not be put to shame.  
 **8**He who vindicates me is near.  
     Who then will bring charges against me?  
     Let us face each other!  
 Who is my accuser?  
     Let him confront me!  
 **9**It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me.  
     Who will condemn me?  
 They will all wear out like a garment;  
     the moths will eat them up.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*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.

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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.

Second reading Luke 19: 28-40

### Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

**28**After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. **29**As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, **30**“Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. **31**If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

**32**Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. **33**As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

**34**They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

**35**They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. **36**As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

**37**When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

**38**“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke19&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25770b)]

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

**39**Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

**40**“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

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

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*Intercessions*

On this Palm Sunday, as we hold the cross in our hand, we focus on the humility of Jesus.

Lord Jesus, thank you that you came in humility to show us what love is really like. Thank you for the example you have given us. Teach us how to love like you do. We pray for all those we are called upon to love: our families, friends, colleagues and neighbours. We think particularly of one person that we spend time with. We pray especially at this time for….…(prayer list) Show us one special thing we can do for them this week.

Blessed is the King who comes in God’s name,  
**May he bring blessings to his people.**

We pray for all those in our world who are downtrodden, forgotten, unloved and homeless. We pray for refugees and all those fleeing pain, war or persecution. May they all know you especially close to them this week.

Blessed is the King who comes in God’s name,  
**May he bring blessings to his people.**

As we remember that you came in humility, we pray for the world’s leaders and rulers. We ask you to give them humility and wisdom. Give them listening ears and open hearts and a deep desire to put others first.

Blessed is the King who comes in God’s name,  
**May he bring blessings to his people.**

Now, we hold our cross in front of us.

Lord Jesus, go ahead of us this week into all that we do. We think now of the places where we know we are going this week. We acknowledge our feelings about each situation and ask you to be there with us. We know there might also be unexpected places or people who will cross our path this week. Make us gracious in every situation we face.

Blessed is the King who comes in God’s name,  
**May he bring blessings to his people.**

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you went willingly to the cross for us. Without your amazing act of love we would not be here today. Thank you for your goodness and self-sacrifice. Give us the courage to tell our friends and neighbours about what you have done for us so that, one day, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that you are Lord.

Blessed is the King who comes in God’s name,  
**May he bring blessings to his people.**

We hold our cross high.

Lord Jesus, risen in glory, thank you for all the joys that we have in our lives. Thank you for sunny days, blossom on the trees, blue skies and birdsong. Thank you for everyone who has made us smile this week. We think now of two amazing things or people that make our lives richer and deeper.

Blessed is the King who comes in God’s name,  
**May he bring blessings to his people.**

As we walk with you through the darkness of Good Friday to the triumph of Easter, help us to learn something new about you this week that will spur us on to a deeper relationship with you.

We ask all these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Blessed is his name. Amen.**

Collect for Palm Sunday

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.**

*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.

*All*  **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ.

*All*  **Amen.**

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**What’s on ….**

**Exe Valley Community Lunches**

The next lunch is at Stoodleigh Village Hall on Thursday 8 May at 12.30pm. Please let the church office if you will be joining us.

**Agape Meal Maundy Thursday 17 April 6.00pm**

Agape Meal at Cruwys Morchard Village Hall on Thursday 17 April at 6.30pm. Please let the office know if you will be joining us.

**Prayer Breakfast at The Rectory**

The next prayer breakfast will be at 9.00am on Saturday 26 April 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 9 May 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, 3 April, 24 April and 1 May 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 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 PCC, please use account number 00213815 and

sort code 30-98-61. Please use the reference St Peter’s services.

Thank you for your support.