**Morning Prayer for the Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Sunday 11th May 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.****



*The Greeting*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*All* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In your resurrection, O Christ,

*All* **Let heaven and earth rejoice.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

 Lord God, you call us to love and serve you,
 and to live life in all its fullness.
 You call us to show our faith, not only in words but in action.
 Lord God, we come to you today, leaving our fears aside.
 We seek to follow your call to us to live.
 We’re listening, Lord.

 God of eternal life, you bring light and life to all.
 Nothing is too small for you to care about.
 Nothing escapes your loving gaze.
 Open our eyes now to your abundant kindness.
 If we are open to you, you come and live in us.
 Your work goes on for eternity.
 We bless you, Lord God.
 **Amen.**

Let us come before the God of our salvation,

offering him all praise and glory.

Let us join the angels standing around the throne,

as we offer ourselves in worship to God, saying:

**Amen! Praise and glory**

**and wisdom and thanks**

**and honour and power and strength**

**be to our God for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

 The night has passed,

and the day lies open before us.

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Risen Christ,

you filled your disciples

with boldness and fresh hope:

strengthen us to proclaim your risen life

and fill us with your peace,

to the glory of God the Father.

*All* **Amen.**

**A prayer of confession**

Sometimes we think about life after death,
forgetting life before death.
For the times when we are content to live mindlessly:
**Lord, we ask your forgiveness.**
For the times we think faith is only about words, not action,
and we don’t use the talents you give us:
**Lord, we ask your forgiveness.**
For the times we take you for granted, too absorbed
by our own concerns to care for those who need us:
**Lord, we ask your forgiveness.**
**Amen.**

 **Assurance of forgiveness**

Creator God, you give us fullness of life.
You know all about us, you know every hair on our head.
How can we not believe that you will forgive our sin.
We are the sheep of your pasture.
No one can snatch us from your loving arms.
You freely forgive all who repent.
You freely forgive even us.
**Amen.**

 The Word of God

First reading Acts 9: 36-43

**36**In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. **37**About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. **38**Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!”

**39**Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

**40**Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. **41**He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. **42**This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. **43**Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon.

This is the word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 23**

####  A psalm of David.

 **1**The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
 **2**    He makes me lie down in green pastures,
 he leads me beside quiet waters,
 **3**    he refreshes my soul.
 He guides me along the right paths
     for his name’s sake.
 **4**Even though I walk
     through the darkest valley,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%2023&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14240a)]
 I will fear no evil,
     for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff,
     they comfort me.

 **5**You prepare a table before me
     in the presence of my enemies.
 You anoint my head with oil;
     my cup overflows.
 **6**Surely your goodness and love will follow me
     all the days of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
     forever.

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

**and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now and ever more shall be,**

**world without end. Amen.**

Second reading John 10: 22-30

**22**Then came the Festival of Dedication[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john%2010&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26504b)] at Jerusalem. It was winter, **23**and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon’s Colonnade. **24**The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.”

**25**Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me, **26**but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. **27**My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. **28**I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. **29**My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john%2010&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26511c)]; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. **30**I and the Father are one.”

This is the word of the Lord.

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

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

****

Prayers of Intercession

Almighty God, you have called us and blessed us and in faith and with trust in you, we bring ourselves and our prayers for others.

In a world where values seem to shift almost daily we pray for the marginalised and excluded, and the nameless, homeless, stateless people who seem endlessly to slip through the net of care and respect.

Almighty God, may someone show them love and offer them good news,
**that they may know they are cared for in life and in death.**

We pray for the Church worldwide that it may hold fast to the gospel message to love one another as God has loved us. May the Church seek and strive and yearn to speak of the love of God, proclaiming only God and not our own self-importance. We pray for both the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches as they seek to appoint new leaders to lead them in the present age.

Almighty God, may someone show them love and offer them good news,
**that they may know they are cared for in life and in death.**

After a week in which we marked 80 years since VE day, we pray for those affected by current day conflicts. We pray for the war-torn, war-weary nations of the world, where ordinary everyday people just seek peace and comfort, food, drink and shelter to sustain and enrich them. We remember especially the ordinary everyday folk of Ukraine, of Russia, of Sudan, of Gaza, of Israel, of Yemen, and all places around the world in conflict.

Almighty God, may someone show them love and offer them good news,
**that they may know they are cared for in life and in death.**

We pray for countries of the world who teeter on the edge of poverty, hunger and thirst due to climate change. May all who have a choice and a hand in how they live choose to live carefully and tread lightly on the world’s precious resources. May we and they choose sharing and caring over waste and excess.

Almighty God, may someone show them love and offer them good news,
**that they may know they are cared for in life and in death.**

We pray for the ill and the dying, the grieving and the bereaved, the lonely and the lost, the frightened and fearful. We pray especially for ….(prayer list)

Almighty God, may someone show them love and offer them good news,
**that they may know they are cared for in life and in death.**

Almighty God, in your steadfast, eternal presence, we trust and we entrust ourselves and these prayers to you now that, together with you, we may reach out to those in need and love and care for others as you do for us.

**Amen**

The Collect

Almighty God,

Whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:

raise us, who trust in him,

from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,

that we may seek those things which are above,

where he reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

Standing at the foot of the cross,

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.**

The Blessing

God the Father,

by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,

open to us who believe the gates of everlasting life.

*All* **Amen.**

God the Son,

who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,

give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

*All* **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,

whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,

empower us and fill us with Christ’s peace.

*All* **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be amongst us and remain

with us this day and always.

*All* **Amen.**

A sending out prayer

God of life and love,
help us to go from here
to live our lives to the full
and to offer ourselves
in service of those in need.
Shower us with your love and gifts
that we might use them
to be a blessing to others in our community.
**Amen.**

**What’s on ….**

**Exe Valley Community Lunches**

The next lunch is at Stoodleigh Village Hall on June 12th from 12.30pm. Please let the church office if you will be joining us and if you need transport.

**Prayer Breakfast**

The next prayer breakfast with Steph at The Rectory Withleigh is on 28th June at 9.00am. Everyone is welcome.

**Bible Study**

The next Bible Study is on Tuesday June 3rd at Myrtle Cottage Oakford 2.30pm with Tim Gorringe.

**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 June 20th for coffee and a chat if you would like to join her.

**Discipleship Course**

Please join us as we continue with our discipleship course at the Rectory Withleigh. The next meeting will be on Thursday May 15th at 7.00pm.

**Contacting Church Office**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am -12 noon

Email: 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'