**Morning Prayer on The Nineth Sunday after Trinity**

Sunday 17th August 2025 at 9.30 (call in from 9.15)

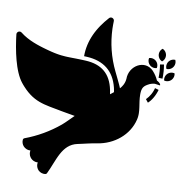
Join Zoom Meeting

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**

Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

O Lord, open our lips

*All* **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Blessed are you, creator of all,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As your dawn renews the face of the earth,

bringing light and life to all creation,

may we rejoice in this day you have made.

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

As we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,

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.**

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

let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept*

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.**

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### A prayer of confession

Compassionate God,  
we bring to you in sorrow the times we have not  
run the race of faith, because it has been too tough.  
The times when we have looked away when others  
are struggling and not run with them in their need;  
the times we have tried to run in our own strength  
and let you and others down.  
We are really sorry and ask for your loving forgiveness  
and healing grace that we might begin again.  
In Jesus’ name.  
**Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

Amazing God, you cheer us on when we are faltering,  
you carry us when we are exhausted;  
you give us confidence when we are wavering;  
you forgive us when we are sorry,  
and you invite us to run your race,  
with Jesus as our guide, our leader and the perfecter of our faith.  
**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

First reading: Hebrews 11: 29 -12: 2

**29**By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

**30**By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

**31**By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2011&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30204d)]

**32**And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, **33**who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, **34**quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. **35**Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. **36**Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. **37**They were put to death by stoning;[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2011&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30210e)] they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— **38**the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

**39**These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, **40**since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

**12**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2**fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm Psalm 82

#### A psalm of Asaph.

**1**God presides in the great assembly;  
    he renders judgment among the “gods”:

**2**“How long will you[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2082&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15236a)] defend the unjust  
    and show partiality to the wicked?[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2082&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15236b)]  
**3**Defend the weak and the fatherless;  
    uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.  
**4**Rescue the weak and the needy;  
    deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

**5**“The ‘gods’ know nothing, they understand nothing.  
    They walk about in darkness;  
    all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**6**“I said, ‘You are “gods”;  
    you are all sons of the Most High.’  
**7**But you will die like mere mortals;  
    you will fall like every other ruler.”

**8**Rise up, O God, judge the earth,  
    for all the nations are your inheritance.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

All **as it was in the beginning, is now   
and shall be for ever.**

**Amen.**

Second reading: Luke 12: 49-56

### Not Peace but Division

**49**“I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! **50**But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! **51**Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. **52**From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. **53**They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

### Interpreting the Times

**54**He said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. **55**And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. **56**Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

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

**Hands holding up a cross

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**Intercessions**

Lord, help us to run your race, supporting each other as we go

Lord, we come to meet together today from different homes, different situations, different jobs and hobbies, yet with one uniting feature: we are here together to worship and be transformed by you. We come together to learn more of you and then be sent out to live your way in our world. Sometimes we find living your way to be easy, sometimes it’s a challenge, sometimes it is very, very hard. Thank you that we have each other to travel with. Thank you that we are given the gift of supporting each other through the race that is following you.

We pause now to look around us at all those we are worshipping with today: maybe our families, our friends, some we know a little, some we may never have seen before. Thank you, Lord, for each person here today. Give us each the courage to speak to someone today that we’ve never spoken to before, to grow the bonds of love and friendship that you have led us to. We thank you, Lord, for each other.

Lord, help us to run your race  
**Supporting each other as we go.**

Lord, you call us to run a race together, not alone. We thank you for the privilege of being able to support each other on the journey. We think particularly of those who are finding the travelling very hard at the moment. We pray for the sick, the sorrowful, the bereaved, those who have received difficult news, those whose exam results were not what they had hoped for, pausing particularly to name….(Prayer list)

Give them comfort in their troubles and sadness. Help them to see a way through the difficulties. Reassure them that you are walking with them. Show us how we can be a support to someone this week. We picture a person or situation now where we think you might be leading each of us… walk with us towards those you send us to.

Lord, help us to run your race  
**Supporting each other as we go.**

Lord, we think now of our world. We often feel so helpless in the face of such seemingly impossible problems, wars, unrest and lack of love. We do not have the strength to solve any of these problems on our own, but you are a God of justice who can see the day when your kingdom comes and the world will live in peace. Until that day, we support one another to trust that you are in control. We therefore pray in faith for: Ukraine, the Middle East, Sudan, ….

Lord, we cry out to you to bring the lasting peace that only you can bring. We pray for Christians in those countries, seeking to be peacemakers in their communities. Help us to support them in any way we can as we run the race together.

Lord, help us to run your race  
**Supporting each other as we go.**

Finally, Lord, we offer ourselves to you during this coming week. Maybe we need to face something hard, maybe we are expecting some fun things to happen. Maybe we don’t know if anything different will take place at all. Lord, whatever happens, help us to run each day alongside you and help us to run the race of faith with our families and friends. Run before us into every situation and help us to follow faithfully.

**Thank you, Lord, for the joy and challenge of running and for never leaving our sides. Help us all to keep going, supporting each other as we go.**

**Amen**

Collect for the Nineth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,  
who sent your Holy Spirit  
to be the life and light of your Church:  
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,  
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace;  
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.

**Amen**

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

The love of the Lord Jesus

draw us to himself;

the power of the Lord Jesus

strengthen us in his service;

the joy of the Lord Jesus

fill our hearts;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among us and remain with us

and those whom we love and pray for

today and always.

*All* **Amen.**

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**Steph Update**

“Just had a phone call with surgeons who are delighted with my progress. Results not back from pathology yet and have an appointment with oncology on Monday. I continue to feel very well and can eat a carvery roast like the best of them! Thanks for your prayers.’

**What’s on ….**

**Bible Study**

The next Bible study will be on Monday 29 September at The Cottage Washfield at 2.30pm with Tim Gorringe. We are looking at Paul’s letters to the Galatians.

**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 the church office on 07733949295. Only first initials will be used on the prayer chain to ensure total confidentiality.

**Contacting Church Office.**

Email: [office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org](mailto:office@exevalleymissioncommunity.org)

Tel: Dawn on 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'