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

Sunday 31st August 2025 at 9.30 (call in from 9.15)

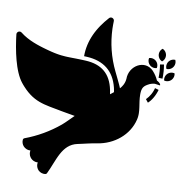
Join Zoom Meeting

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.**

Living God, you are our helper and we will not fear.  
We will not look away from those in need.  
We will not turn our backs on those who reach out for help.  
We will not be deaf to the cries of the suffering,  
because you are our God and you give us courage.  
You lead by example and empower us with your compassion.  
And so we will serve and follow you.

May all that is in us bless God’s holy name,  
for he is the one who forgives our sin,  
saves us, and crowns us with love and mercy. **Amen**

### A prayer of confession

Compassionate God, sometimes we make our world too small  
and look inwards, not outwards.  
**Forgive us when we lack confidence to care and courage to act.**  
Sometimes our hearts are too small  
and we miss opportunities to make a difference.

**Forgive us when we lack confidence to care and courage to act.**  
Sometimes our lives are too full and we are oblivious  
to those who feel empty.

**Forgive us when we lack confidence to care and courage to act.**  
Sometimes we don’t look after ourselves enough  
and cause others to fret and worry.

**Forgive us when we lack confidence to care and courage to act.**  
We ask this in Jesus’ name.  
**Amen.**

 Assurance of forgiveness

Gracious God, you are our helper  
and you restore our peace when we make a mistake.  
You lift us up when we fall and you forgive us  
when we turn back to you  
with humility, patience and compassion,  
as Jesus promised you would.  
**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

First reading: Hebrews 13: 1-8,15-16

**13**Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. **2**Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. **3**Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

**4**Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. **5**Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;  
    never will I forsake you.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2013&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30247a)]

**6**So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.  
    What can mere mortals do to me?”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews%2013&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30248b)]

**7**Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. **8**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

**15**Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. **16**And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm Psalm 112

**1**Praise the Lord.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%20112&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15805b)]

Blessed are those who fear the Lord,  
    who find great delight in his commands.

**2**Their children will be mighty in the land;  
    the generation of the upright will be blessed.  
**3**Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
    and their righteousness endures forever.  
**4**Even in darkness light dawns for the upright,  
    for those who are gracious and compassionate and righteous.  
**5**Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely,  
    who conduct their affairs with justice.

**6**Surely the righteous will never be shaken;  
    they will be remembered forever.  
**7**They will have no fear of bad news;  
    their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.  
**8**Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear;  
    in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.  
**9**They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor,  
    their righteousness endures forever;  
    their horn[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm%20112&version=NIV#fen-NIV-15813c)] will be lifted high in honour.

**10**The wicked will see and be vexed,  
    they will gnash their teeth and waste away;  
    the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.

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 14: 1,7-14

**14**One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

**7**When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honour at the table, he told them this parable: **8**“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honour, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. **9**If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. **10**But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honoured in the presence of all the other guests. **11**For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

**12**Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. **13**But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, **14**and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever… So we are confident that you listen and you care.

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you care about every aspect of our lives. You’re not just interested in the big, life-changing moments - everything is important to you no matter how small. So we come with confidence, knowing that you will not turn us away. We can ask for anything, pray about anything and you will listen, and you will care. Give us the courage to pray the big prayers…And help us not to be diffident about praying for the small things. And give us the confidence to acknowledge that, though our prayers may not be answered in the way we want, you are ultimately in control.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever…  
**So we are confident that you listen and you care.**

Lord Jesus, we come with our big prayers for the world. We weep with you for those who are suffering from war and famine. We lift the people of Gaza to you, urgently praying for an end to hostilities. We pray for the Israeli hostages longing for home and for those so anxious for their release. We pray that aid may be brought to those in desperate need. And we pray for Ukraine and Russia, and all who suffer from the consequences of war. We pray for those who are seeking to negotiate a ceasefire. We pray for the leaders of the nations, asking that you will give them wisdom to speak out to bring an end to war wherever it is fought.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever…  
**So we are confident that you listen and you care.**

Lord, you call us to show hospitality to strangers, so we pray for refugees, asylum seekers and all those who travel to our nations from elsewhere. We pray that migrants will be made welcome and shown compassion rather than being greeted with hostility and suspicion. Give us the courage to see others as you see them and to serve them as if we are serving you.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever…  
**So we are confident that you listen and you care.**

Lord, after a long summer holiday, many of our children are preparing to return to school this week. We pray for those who are excited to be in new classes and those who are nervous about starting new schools. We remember that many will be very anxious, especially those who feel unable to attend school. Be close to each child, we pray, may they know your presence with them as they enter the classroom or do their lessons at home. We also pray for teachers. Give them patience, wisdom and clear heads as they go back to their classrooms this week.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever…  
**So we are confident that you listen and you care.**

Lord we pray for our neighbours and friends, the housebound and the lonely. Show us how we, as a church, can make a difference in our community. And we pray for ourselves as a congregation. We remember especially…(prayer list). Fill us with your Spirit in this place that we may go from here renewed and refreshed having met with, and been challenged by, you.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever…  
**So we are confident that you listen and you care.**

Finally, we lift ourselves to you. Lord, you know where we are joyful and you know where we have deep sadness and worry. In the stillness, we tell you our deepest needs. Help us not to be afraid to pray but to open our souls to you because you are a God of compassion. Lead us forward into the week ahead knowing that you go before us. Help us to listen to you and be people of compassion wherever you send us.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever…  
**So we are confident that you listen and you care. Send us out, lead us on, into your world, as listening and caring people.**

**Amen.**

Collect for the Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

God of glory,  
the end of our searching,  
help us to lay aside  
all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,  
and to give all that we have  
to gain the pearl beyond all price,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**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.**

We have worshipped you here today, Lord.  
Now we go out, with hope and confidence, to love and to serve.  
Help us to worship you out there, just as we do here.  
**Amen.**

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**What’s on ….**

**Steph’s Update**

‘Every day I’m feeling stronger and more resilient. I had an MRI scan on Tuesday and am going to start a course of treatment on Monday which is both curative and preventative – so whatever happens I am on these tablets! I have moved back upstairs and all the extra equipment is being returned. Small steps but all part of a slow and gradual return to normality! With love and hoping to see you before too long.’ Steph

**Exe Valley Community Lunch**

Our next lunch is on Thursday 11 September at Templeton Village Hall, 12.30pm. Please let the office know if you will be able to join us and if you need transport.

**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'