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

Sunday 7th September 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**

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.**

God our Father in heaven,
we come before you today with hearts and minds
open to receive your wisdom.
We hope to find comfort in familiar ritual, yes,
but also to be challenged.
Today, we may hear familiar words and stories
that soothe our souls,
but you, O Lord, will stir in us new understandings
to refresh and renew our faith.
Humbly, we bow before you, O God, who frees us
from the shackles that we may not realise are ensnaring us,
**to be the people you mean us to be.
Amen.**

O Lord, Creator of the universe,
whose mind is freer than we can ever hope to be;
a mind that is in all things and flows through all things.
Children, servants, never slaves, we bow down before you.
**Amen.**

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

let us pray with one heart and mind.

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.**

### A prayer of confession

Heavenly Father, we confess that we stumble from day to day,
failing to consider our lives in the light of our faith.

Lord, we measure ourselves by the standards of society,
afraid what others might think, not you.

We become enslaved by worldly influences, filling our minds
with ideas that do not feed the soul and our lives
with things that bring only fleeting pleasure.

We recommit to the ways taught us by Jesus.
Help us to count the cost of following him.

**Father, forgive us our failings and help us to stop and think.**
**Amen.**

 Assurance of forgiveness

Heavenly Father, when we stray from you in mind or deed,
you bring us gently back.
When we rush headlong in the wrong direction,
yours are the hands holding us back from destruction.
Forgiveness is in your breath and being,
giving us pause for thought at such wondrous love.
**Amen.**

**The Word of God**

First reading: Philemon 1-21

**1**Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— **2**also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:

**3**Grace and peace to you[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=philemon%201-21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29942a)] from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**4**I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, **5**because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. **6**I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. **7**Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord’s people.

**8**Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, **9**yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— **10**that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=philemon%201-21&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29949b)] who became my son while I was in chains. **11**Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

**12**I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. **13**I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. **14**But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favour you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. **15**Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— **16**no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

**17**So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. **18**If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. **19**I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. **20**I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. **21**Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm Psalm 1

**1**Blessed is the one
    who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
    or sit in the company of mockers,
**2**but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
    and who meditates on his law day and night.
**3**That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
    which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
    whatever they do prospers.

**4**Not so the wicked!
    They are like chaff
    that the wind blows away.
**5**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
    nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**6**For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
    but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

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: 25-33

**14**One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. **2**There in front of him was a man suffering from abnormal swelling of his body. **3**Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?” **4**But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way.

**5**Then he asked them, “If one of you has a child[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke%2014&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25559a)] or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?” **6**And they had nothing to say.

**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.”

**15**When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

**16**Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. **17**At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

**18**“But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’

**19**“Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

**20**“Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

**21**“The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

**22**“‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

**23**“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. **24**I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

**25**Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: **26**“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. **27**And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

**28**“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? **29**For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, **30**saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

**31**“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? **32**If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. **33**In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

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

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**Intercessions**

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give, and not to count the cost

Lord God, we come before you today, with full hearts, as we think about the privilege it is to serve you, whatever the cost.

“Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve;

to give, and not to count the cost;
to fight, and not to heed the wounds;
to toil, and not to seek for rest;
to labour, and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we are doing your will.”

St Ignatius of Loyola 1491 - 1556

We pray for the church worldwide. For those who lead, and those who follow. Fill us all with your holy spirit, and your compassion.

Lord, we pray for people for whom the cost of being a disciple is high.
For those who have no choice but to carry their own cross of hardship.
For those who have a choice and still follow you whatever the cost.
For people who give their all for Jesus, prioritising him above family and possessions.

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve
**To give, and not to count the cost.**

We pray for all countries at war. Through modern technology we can get frighteningly close to what is happening in these areas. But we still don’t really know what it feels like to be amongst it all. We pray that you would plant peace in the hearts of those who seek only to destroy. And meet the needs of all who suffer.

We pray for those who work in war-torn countries, and areas of natural disaster.
For people there who have literally nothing.
Especially today we pray for the victims of the earthquake in Afghanistan.

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve
**To give, and not to count the cost.**

We pray for people who are not treated as equals.
For refugees, asylum seekers.
For those who have fled their beloved homeland to seek safety and security.
But may find nothing but hostility.
Help us to remember that we are all children of the same living God.

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve
**To give, and not to count the cost.**

Lord, this week we celebrate International Literacy Day.
We pray for organisations that promote literacy in underdeveloped countries.
And among women.
For organisations like Wycliffe Bible translators
who make the Bible readily available in so many languages.
For Christian writers, thanking you that the pen is mightier than the sword.

We pray for teachers and volunteers who put their all
into enabling their students to read and write.
Especially as the new school year is starting.
We pray for a spirit of excited and fulfilling learning in the classrooms.

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve
**To give, and not to count the cost.**

Onesimus ran away from his troubles.
Paul thanked God for Philemon as he remembered him in his prayers.
We pray that we would never be afraid to use the written word to plead for others.
Help us always to work together with our fellows
to promote your gospel in whatever way we can, wherever we can.
To stand firm and be partners in the faith.
To always put you first.
We pray for the people in our lives who stand firm in the faith for us.

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve
**To give, and not to count the cost.**

We give thanks for, and remember in our prayers,
our church family gathered here today.
We pray for those who cannot be with us.
For those who minister to us in so many ways, often not seen.
For the sick and bereaved. (Prayer list…) Bring them your healing and comfort.

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve
**To give, and not to count the cost.**

**Amen**

Collect for the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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 peace of God,

which passes all understanding,

keep your hearts and minds

in the knowledge and love of God,

and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among us and those whom we love,

and remain with us always.

*All* **Amen.**

Heavenly Father,
we thank you for this gathering of hearts and minds.
As we depart from this space,
help us to carry your love in our hearts
and to speak kindness into all situations.
In your loving name, we pray.
**Amen.**

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**What’s on ….**

**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

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

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