*Morning Prayer Epiphany Season  
Sunday, 14 January 2024, The Second Sunday of Epiphany*

This Sunday we are looking forward to worshipping with you on Zoom or Conference Call at 9.30am (lines open up at 9.15am)

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**

O Lord, open our lips

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

Your light springs up for the righteous

**and all the peoples have seen your glory.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,  
king of the nations,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
From the rising of the sun to its setting  
your name is proclaimed in all the world.  
As the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts  
anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit  
that we may witness to your gospel  
and sing your praise in all the earth.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Blessed be God for ever.

*A Psalm of David*

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Opening prayer*

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.  
Amen.

The Word of God

*Psalmody*

*Psalm 145.1-12*

***Great is the Lord and highly to be praised.***

I will exalt you, O God my King,   
and bless your name for ever and ever.

Every day will I bless you   
and praise your name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;   
his greatness is beyond all searching out.

One generation shall praise your works to another   
and declare your mighty acts.

They shall speak of the majesty of your glory,   
and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts,   
and I will also tell of your greatness.

They shall pour forth the story of your abundant kindness   
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,   
long-suffering and of great goodness.

The Lord is loving to everyone   
and his mercy is over all his creatures.

All your works praise you, O Lord,   
and your faithful servants bless you.

They tell of the glory of your kingdom   
and speak of your mighty power,

To make known to all peoples your mighty acts   
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

***Great is the Lord and highly to be praised.***

***King of the universe,  
you show the bright glory of your reign  
in acts of mercy and enduring love;  
raise the spirits of the downcast  
and restore those who have fallen away,  
that we may sing for ever of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

*Scripture readings*

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions. One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel. Samuel answered, “Here I am.” And he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” But Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down. Again the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” “My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. A third time the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.” Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’ ” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” And the Lord said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, ‘The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’ ” Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, but Eli called him and said, “Samuel, my son.” Samuel answered, “Here I am.” “What was it he said to you?” Eli asked. “Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you.” So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes.” The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord.

*Canticle*

*A Song of the New Jerusalem,*

*Refrain:*

**Above you the Holy One arises,  
and above you God’s glory appears.**

**Arise, shine out, for your light has come,   
the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.**

**Though night still covers the earth,   
and darkness the peoples;**

**Above you the Holy One arises,   
and above you God’s glory appears.**

**The nations will come to your light,   
and kings to your dawning brightness.**

**Your gates will lie open continually,   
shut neither by day nor by night.**

**The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land,   
or ruin and devastation within your borders.**

**You will call your walls, Salvation,   
and your gates, Praise.**

**No more will the sun give you daylight,   
nor moonlight shine upon you;**

**But the Lord will be your everlasting light,   
your God will be your splendour.**

**For you shall be called the city of God,   
the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel.**

*Isaiah 60.1-3, 11a, 18, 19, 14b*

*Scripture Reading*

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.” Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked. “Come and see,” said Philip. When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.” “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.” Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

John‬

*Time of Reflection on the reading*

*Gospel Canticle*

*Refrain:*

**This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,  
the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

**Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,   
who has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,   
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets God promised of old   
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,**

**To show mercy to our ancestors,   
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:   
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**Free to worship him without fear,   
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.**

**And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,   
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

**To give his people knowledge of salvation   
by the forgiveness of all their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God   
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,   
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

*Luke 1.68-79*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Refrain:*

**This is the Christ, the Chosen of God,  
the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

*Intercessions*

Heavenly Father, we approach you now with humble and hopeful hearts.

Through our lives and by our prayers  
**Your kingdom come.**

God of healing and hope,  
you bring us the challenge of seeking a better way to live –  
attentive to your voice and ready to respond.  
In a world full of distractions,  
teach us to discern the call that is from you.  
We pray for all who are struggling with God’s call to them  
because the message is tough or because they feel inadequate.  
May we all learn to trust that you will give us what we need  
and find courage in your promise that you will never leave us.

Through our lives and by our prayers  
**Your kingdom come.**

God of healing and hope,  
your wide and generous love extends to all creation.  
May we your people extend the same generosity,  
welcoming friends and strangers into the community you seek to build among us.  
We pray that anyone who is lonely would find company with us,  
and that all who are broken by debt worries, destructive relationships  
or cost-of-living challenges would find in us a listening ear  
and practical support in life’s problems.

Through our lives and by our prayers  
**Your kingdom come.**

God of healing and hope,  
your voice is sometimes surprising,  
coming from the margins and from unexpected people.  
We pray for children and young people in our community  
and for all adults who accompany them in their journey of faith,  
in church, in school and at home.  
May we all pay attention to the voices of children and young people;  
help us to learn from one another what it means to follow you  
and how to build a more inclusive community,  
where we see others as you see them  
and no-one is too small or insignificant  
too young or too old to be a part of your plans.

Through our lives and by our prayers  
**Your kingdom come.**

God of healing and hope,  
your voice shakes us out of complacency  
and summons us to speak and act for justice and peace.  
We pray for places where critics of the status quo are silenced,  
where protest is prevented and the cries against injustice go unheard.  
We pray for journalists in Gaza and Israel that their stories would shine light into suffering  
and for protection from risk for all who seek to tell the truth in hostile environments.  
Help us to hear the call of unlikely heroes  
the ones who are persistent in calling for things to be put right.  
We pray for all the Post Office workers who were wrongly accused and convicted;  
for their families who were often financially ruined  
and for decision-makers in the search for a speedy resolution.  
May we not ignore the inconvenient voices that point us to change.

Through our lives and by our prayers  
**Your kingdom come.**

God of healing and hope,  
you walk with us in the toughest of times  
and constantly call us back to your love.  
We pray for all who have lost homes and livelihoods in recent floods.  
We pray for the sick and the dying and for everyone who has asked for prayer, including:  
(add names of people who have asked for prayer).  
We pray for anyone who today needs to hear your voice again  
and who needs to remember the depth of your love for them.  
In the quiet, we name to God the families of those who have recently died.  
(Names of those who have died).  
Gather everyone in need into your loving arms  
and make us a community that hears the cry of people’s hearts and responds.

Through our lives and by our prayers  
**Your kingdom come.**

God of healing and hope,  
you have searched for us and called us by name  
and our lives are in your hands.  
May we respond faithfully and humbly to what you ask of us  
so that your kingdom of hope, justice and love can be seen among us.

Through our lives and by our prayers  
**Your kingdom come.**

*The Collect of the day*

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
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*

Believing the promises of God,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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 Conclusion

May Christ, who sends us to the nations,  
give us the power of his Spirit.  
**Amen**.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

<https://bible.com/bible/111/jhn.1.43-51.NIV>

<https://bible.com/bible/111/1sa.3.20.NIV>

<https://bible.com/bible/111/psa.139.13-18.NIV>

**Giving**

To give to the Exe Valley Mission Community by BACS, please use account number 54731690 and sort code 60-21-27. Please use the reference *EVMC services*.

To give to St Peter’s Church, please go to [www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk](http://www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk) and follow the donations link on the front page of the website.

Thank you for your support. It is very much appreciated.