**Morning Prayer for Easter Day**

Sunday 20th April 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.****

A stone wall with a hole in it

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Greeting

Come and join the celebration –  
 **Jesus Christ is risen today!**  
 Come and hear the amazing news –  
 **Jesus’ death is not the end!**  
 Come and share the joy and freedom –  
 **our sins are forgiven in Jesus’ name!**  
 **Alleluia!**

We exalt you, risen Lord.  
**We worship and adore you.**  
From cross to cave, beaten but not broken;  
from thorns to throne; from grave to glory,  
we exalt you, risen Lord.

**We worship and adore you.**  
**Amen.**

Opening Prayer

Creator God,  
 you who scattered the stars  
 and filled the deep oceans,  
 **come, God, be with us here.**

Saviour God,  
 you who suffered for us  
 and danced from death to new life,  
 **come, God, be with us here.**

Spirit God,  
 you who are as wild as the wind  
 and fill our hearts with fire,  
 **come, God, be with us here.**  
 **Amen.**

We exalt you, risen Lord.  
 **We worship and adore you.**  
 From cross to cave, beaten but not broken;  
 from thorns to throne; from grave to glory,  
 we exalt you, risen Lord.  
 **We worship and adore you.**  
 **Amen.**

### A prayer of confession

Father God, forgive our lapses of faith,  
 when we fail to read, meditate on and understand the Scriptures.  
 We’re sorry for the days when we neglect to look beyond the cross and wallow in the darkness of despair.  
 Lord of life, we’re sorry for not always living in the light and hope of your resurrection,  
 for not noticing you in all aspects of life.  
 Lord, many people turned against you,  
 hence your path to the cross.  
 Forgive us when we turn our backs on people in need.  
 Your Holy Spirit helps us live the resurrection life.  
 Forgive us when we fail to live in the power  
 of your cross and empty tomb.  
 **Father, Son and Holy Spirit living in unity,**  
 **may we live in unity with you.**  
 **May we live the resurrection life and help others**

**shine on the path of faith.** **Amen.**

### Assurance of forgiveness

Holy Lord and Saviour, your blood shed on the cross cleanses us from all sin.  
We live in the light of your forgiveness now and forever.  
**Amen.**

The Word of God

First reading: Acts 10: 34-43

**34**Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism **35**but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. **36**You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. **37**You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— **38**how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

**39**“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, **40**but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. **41**He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42**He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. **43**All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

This is the word of the Lord.

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

Easter Psalm

Psalm 118: 14-24

**14**The Lord is my strength and my defense;  
     he has become my salvation.

**15**Shouts of joy and victory  
     resound in the tents of the righteous:  
 “The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!  
 **16**    The Lord’s right hand is lifted high;  
     the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”  
 **17**I will not die but live,  
     and will proclaim what the Lord has done.  
 **18**The Lord has chastened me severely,  
     but he has not given me over to death.  
 **19**Open for me the gates of the righteous;  
     I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.  
 **20**This is the gate of the Lord  
     through which the righteous may enter.  
 **21**I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
     you have become my salvation.

**22**The stone the builders rejected  
     has become the cornerstone;  
 **23**the Lord has done this,  
    and it is marvelous in our eyes.  
 **24**The Lord has done it this very day;  
     let us rejoice today and be glad.

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

**and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**world without end.**

**Amen.**

The Word of God

### Second reading John 20: 1-18

### The Empty Tomb

**20**Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. **2**So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

**3**So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. **4**Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5**He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. **6**Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, **7**as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. **8**Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. **9**(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) **10**Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

### Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

**11**Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb **12**and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

**13**They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” **14**At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

**15**He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

**16**Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

**17**Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

**18**Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Hands holding up a cross

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Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith

in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*All* **Christ died for our sins**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he was buried;**

**he was raised to life on the third day**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**afterwards he appeared to his followers,**

**and to all the apostles:**

**this we have received,**

**and this we believe.**

**Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Christ has been raised from the dead:

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

This Easter, we again celebrate that you, our God, sent your Son to save us. We celebrate that, despite all his suffering, he defeated death and took all the wrong of the world to the cross with him. We celebrate that the darkness of the sky when Jesus cried ‘It is finished’ was replaced by the light of hope. We celebrate that the tomb was empty, and with those followers who met the resurrected Christ, we celebrate that he lives again.

Christ has been raised from the dead:  
**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

 This Easter, we think of how much the gift of life and salvation we are offered means to us. We think of the joy and hope that you, our God offer us, and the purpose you give to our lives. We think of your Son Jesus who faced pain, torture and humiliation, and did it all for us. We think of how we can follow his example of care, love and service to others, and obey your call on our lives. We remember those in our parishes who have asked for our prayers …..(prayer list). We think of our calling to bring change and share his love at home, at school, at work, where we volunteer or wherever we are.

Christ has been raised from the dead:  
**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

 This Easter, we look around the world at the pain and suffering that continues. We look to you, our God, to bring light into darkness and replace despair with hope. We look for talks and desires for ceasefires and ultimately for peace in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan. We look for leaders to think of humanity and to value every life as equal and precious. We look for comfort for those who have lost homes, belongings, family, friends and hope as a result of war and conflict.

Christ has been raised from the dead:  
**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

 This Easter, we reflect on the need for quiet and peace in our busy lives. We reflect on all that we do in our churches to serve our communities, and the need for rest. As we spend a few moments in peace and silence now, help us to reflect personally on all your goodness to us, and the many blessings we have…..

Help us to reflect on the times and moments when we have felt you close to us, and to seek those moments again. God, give us peace in our communities, churches, families, and lives.

Christ has been raised from the dead:  
**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

The Lord’s Prayer

*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 Collect for Easter Day**

God of glory,

by the raising of your Son

you have broken the chains of death and hell:

fill your Church with faith and hope;

for a new day has dawned

and the way to life stands open

in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

*All* **He has given us new life and hope.**

**He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own.

*All* **He has brought us out of darkness.**

**He has made us light to the world.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

The Blessing

God the Father,

by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,

open to you 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 you and fill you with Christ’s peace.

*All* **Amen.**

A Sending out prayer

We’ve seen the good news –  
 the tomb is empty, Christ is risen!  
 **Hallelujah!**  
 We’ve heard the good news –  
 death is disrupted, God is on the loose!  
 **Hallelujah!**  
 We’ll take the good news  
 and share it far and wide.  
 **Hallelujah! Christ is risen!**  
 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.

**Amen.**

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**What’s on ….**

**Exe Valley Community Lunches**

The next lunch is a trip to Fursdon House, a walk around the garden followed by a cream tea on Thursday 8 May at 2.00pm. Please let the church office if you will be joining us and if you need transport.

**Prayer Breakfast at The Rectory**

The next prayer breakfast will be at 9.00am on Saturday 26 April 2025. Everyone welcome.

**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 11April for coffee and a chat if you would like to join her.

**Practicing the Way – A course for Lenten Discipleship**

Steph will be running this course during Lent at The Rectory Withleigh.

Thursday 24 April and 1 May at 11.00am & 7.00pm.

Please come along when you can and encourage others to sign up. Please let the church office know when you can come. 01884 250417

**Contacting Church Office**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am -12 noon

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

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