

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity** *18 October 2020*

Dear Friends,

Welcome! Herewith our weekly sheet and devotions. If you wish to receive this, together with the accompanying email, please join via the church website or contact Gill - htcuckfield.churchoffice@talktalk.net - and you will be added to the circulation list. Please note that you can unsubscribe at any time.

At present we ask that you use the online ticketing system if you wish to attend the Sunday 9.45 Parish Eucharist in church. This service is also livestreamed on the Zoom link. The 8.00 is not ticketed, and the weekday services are on Zoom rather than in the church. If you are unable to access the ticketing system, please contact Gill in the Church Office (01444 456461)

Please do join us. We would love to see you either in the church or online!

With every blessing,

Michael (Vicar)

Please check the church website for details of services, etc:
www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Trinity 19 (18 October 2020):

8.00 Holy Communion (*in church*)

Reader: Ralph Colbran

9.45 The Parish Eucharist CW Proper 24 (*in church—see website to book*)

Readers: Eileen & Jim Knight; Intercessor: Gerry Larner

4.30 IGNITE —our new online worship for young people and the young at heart. *Guest speaker: Jess Beaumont*

Services during the week (all on Zoom):

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) *Readings: Ephesians 3: 2-12; Luke 12: 39-48*

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *Readings: Ephesians 3: 14-end; Luke 12: 49-53*

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *Readings Trinity 19*

Next Sunday: Last Sunday after Trinity (25 October 2020)

8.00 Holy Communion (*in church*)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist with Baptism CW Proper 25 (*in church—see website to book*)

All services (other than the 8.00) live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website before services, entering a waiting 'area' before joining everyone.

The Collect for Trinity 19

Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Isaiah 45: 1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Matthew 22: 15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

A thought

Today's gospel, in which Jesus' enemies try to entrap him by asking whether they should pay tax to Caesar or not, is often read as making a distinction between politics and religion. There is Caesar's world and that of God. Priests should keep out of politics and stick to spirituality. But this to misunderstand what Jesus is saying. Every human being is made in the image of God and so belongs to God. For Christians, politics is building the polis, the community, in which God's own children can live in dignity and happiness, as we await God's gift of the heavenly city, in which all politics will be finished and, thanks be to God, there will be no more party conferences - Covid or no Covid! Isaiah shows God immersed in the great events of his time, the rise of Cyrus, the Persian ruler who transformed the political map of the Middle East and enabled the exiled Israelites to go home. Religion cannot be reduced to politics, but it has consequences for how we understand the point of politics.

Jesus's opponents are caught up in that human way, speedily producing Caesar's coin from their pocket, although that image would have polluted them. The Herodians especially belonged to the world of wealth and power. They are so blinded that they do not see that the man they are trying to trap is himself the very image of God made human.

If one sees the world through the spectacles of status and money, the poor disappear.

We are all, in varying degrees, bifocal. Sometimes we are bewitched by the Caesars of our time, the wealthy and the famous, and lose sight of the beauty of those who do not count. But sometimes the veil lifts and we glimpse another's concealed dignity, the secret beauty under the grime, the radiance under what seems banal or mediocre. Let God's grace cleanse our eyes.

Timothy Radcliffe OP

A prayer for this time of anxiety:

God of all compassion, your love never fails. Help us to listen to the tranquillity of your presence within our lives, so that we may grow in the knowledge that your Son, Jesus Christ, walks beside us, and your Holy Spirit comforts us at the heart of our being; for you are One God, world without end. Amen

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate Need: Stuart, Rev Sandra Hall, Jo Kells, Marilyn Archbold, Jenny, Reg Ruddock, David Dennis, Jane Terry, Heather Hollis, Carol Shepherd,

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Julia Settle, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Jean Simmons, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky & Mark Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Marjorie Chilton, Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Janet Card, Jocelyn Bentley, Yvonne Godsmark, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Siân

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 18th Dorothy Wright, Aldo Marsili, Douglas Symes, Gilbert Garrett, 19th David Wellum, 20th Christine Shah, John Cox, Alice Pearce, Carin Kent, Margaret Norris, 21st Ethel Shepherd, 22nd Dorothy Voller, Hilda Hall, Robert Ellett, Kenneth Raw, Patricia Garman, 23rd Bill Pinnell, Pamela Edgerton, 24th Grace Thunder, Lucy Travers, Vivian Griffin, Cathie Lang, Anthony Flight, Violet Jones