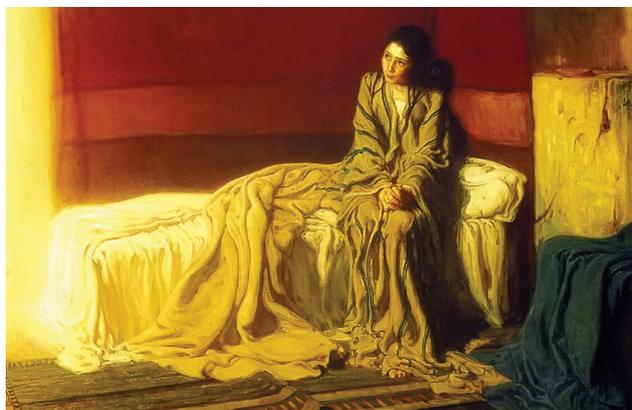


HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Fourth Sunday of Advent
20 December 2020

*Drop down dew from above you heavens and let the clouds rain down the Just One—
let the earth be opened to bring forth a Saviour Isaiah 45: 8*

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent (20 December 2020)

8.30 Holy Communion *(in church - livestreamed—note change of time for this service)*

Reader: Ralph Colbran

9.45 Family Nativity *(in church and online - see website to book)*

6.00 A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols *(in church and online - see website to book)*

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion *(Common Worship) Readings: Malachi 3: 1-4; 4: 5-end; Luke 1: 57-66*

12noon - Funeral *Maureen Butcher*

Christmas Eve (Thursday)

'The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey' at **2.30** and **4.00pm** *(ticketed and livestreamed)* We hope to have a live Nativity Scene *(with animals)* between the two readings of this lovely story.

11.15pm Midnight Mass *(in church and online - see website to book)*

Christmas Day (Friday)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in Church)*

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online - see website to book)*

Next Sunday: St John Apostle & Evangelist (27 December 2020)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist - preacher: Rev. John Cleaver *(in Church and online - see website to book)*

All services 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present
age to see, with her, our great salvation
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:

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things
we may embrace your holy will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever

Romans 16: 25-end

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Luke 1: 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

A thought

The passage from 2 Samuel may seem an odd choice for this last Sunday before Christmas, yet it points us towards the Incarnation in a remarkable way. David was not destined to build the house for God - the Temple. Solomon becomes the house builder for the Lord. However, time and time again, this house is ruined, and so God brings about a wonder for humanity. Now we are called to contemplate the greatest of all mysteries. God desires our understanding that the divine and our frail humanity are combined in great love in the face of Jesus Christ. To bring this about in time and place, Mary becomes the 'house of the Lord,' - her graceful acknowledgement means that she opens herself to the work of the Holy Spirit and helps to bring about the transformation of our relationship with God through the birth of her Son.

There has traditionally been a huge divide between Catholic and Protestant theology over the place of Mary within our Faith. This is a pity. Excessive pietism to rank misinterpretation on either side draws away from the fact that Mary is the primary example of Christian discipleship. She is the one who is there every step of Jesus's journey - the one constant. The fact that the Gospels don't give us much to go on is a

lesson in itself. She walks quietly beside her son, and the last we hear of her is when she experiences the fire of Pentecostal Life with the disciples. At the Annunciation, she says 'yes' for the whole of humanity and enables transformation through Jesus Christ to be open to the whole of creation.



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: Clare, Barbara Booth, Wendy Boys, Carla Spear

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Julia Settle, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky & Mark Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Marjorie Chilton, Janet Card, Yvonne Godsmark, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Jo Kells, Rev. Sandra Hall, Reg Ruddock, Heather Hollis, Carol, Ryan and his mother Katherine, Stuart,

Those in Care Homes: Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Diana Hoile, Ruth Baker

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Ashley Guest, Maureen Butcher

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 20th George Rowe, Helen Hussey, Irene Sayers, 21st John Handcock, Phyllis Bell, 22nd Maurice Donoghue, 23rd Jim Driver, 24th Amy Barnes, William NcKay, Jeremy Tapp, 25th Emily Barnard, Phyllis Taylor, 26th Doris Cutler