

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Passion Sunday - Fifth Sunday of Lent
21 March 2021

Jesus said, 'Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.'

Dear Friends,

Such is the strangeness of the time we have been living through, that following the service last Sunday I had quite convinced myself we had entered Passiontide! However, it is this week that we start the more focussed passage of our journey towards remembering the events which lead Jesus to Calvary, his passion and death, before we celebrate the Easter Feast with great joy.

Since the earliest times Christians have marked this in 'real time' in linking the Passion story in the Gospels to the days they describe. There is a remarkable written of a Spanish woman, Egeria, who made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in the 300s who describes the same pattern of worship we will use during Holy Week. It is a reminder of that link we have with brothers and sisters though the ages. This unity has at its core the wonderful knowledge that **Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday and tomorrow** (Hebrews 13:8)

With all best wishes,

Michael (Vicar)

Please check the church website for more details

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Fifth Sunday of Lent (21 March 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (in church and online - see website to book)

Readers: Peter & Liz Graydon;

Intercessor: Clive Simmonds

4.30 IGNITE - our online service for young people and the young at heart

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30am Holy Communion (Common Worship) Readings: Daniel 3: 14-20, 24-25, 28; John 8: 31-42

8.00pm Lent Course (Zoom)

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion **The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary:**

Readings: Isaiah 7: 10-14; Hebrews 10: 4-10; Luke 1: 26-3

3.00pm Eucharist for Mothers' Union and all (on Zoom)

7.00pm Lent course (Zoom)

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Fifth Sunday of Lent

3.00pm Lent Course (Zoom)

Next Sunday: Palm Sunday (28 March 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

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

6.00 Stainer's The Crucifixion (online only)

For 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 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Lord our God, by your help
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world
your Son gave himself over for death
to lead us to new life;
through 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:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us
that what we do for the least of
our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Hebrews 5: 5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

John 12: 20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

A thought

John builds the structure of his Gospel around the great sequence of the Jewish liturgical year, and in a sense what the trajectory of the work is now leading to is a Passover showdown between the forces of evil and of love. This is what he now seeks to teach the crowds - a defining moment for humanity when through Jesus, God takes on the human capacity for evil - 'the ruler of this world'. There is to be a 'judgement', a decisive victory of good over evil. To our amazement, this is to be played out through the betrayal and passion of Jesus Christ. The hour of Jesus' glory is none other than the hour of his suffering: 'Now my soul is troubled.'

We should not pass too quickly over this confession of how deeply Jesus is moved, how badly he is thrown by the recognition of what now faces him; firstly because that would be to reinforce the callous disregard humanity can show to suffering. But there is another reason to pause at this bleak confession of human vulnerability. For what does Jesus do here? He turns to his Father in prayer.

In that prayer his inner turmoil is offered up to the Father and, in the light of all that he has already preached and done to proclaim the Father's kingdom, Jesus now accepts the violence to come. What others plot, he willingly takes upon himself as an act of love, of self-sacrifice. The 'single grain' offers himself for all who wish to become themselves part of the rich harvest in loving the world through him - something he does, even on the cross.

Holy Week 2021

Please do check the website for details of all worship and devotions during Holy Week. Virtually all of these may be accessed through Zoom, and some will only be available online. We are fortunate that Bishop Ruth Bushyager will be leading a devotion for Holy Trinity on Good Friday (12 noon - online only) entitled 'Witnesses of the Cross.'

This year there will also be an additional Family Easter Praise service at 11.15 on Easter Day, outside (weather permitting) - a short act of worship at which Holy Communion will also be available.

A prayer for this time of anxiety:

God of all compassion, your love never fails. Help us to listen to the tranquility 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: Barbara Booth, Wendy Boys, Carla Spear, Wendy Hibling, Ben Brindley Codd, Justine, Sheila Mitchell, Graham Hibbert, Joe Eaton, Anne Greenhill, Mark Parker, John Barnardi (priest)

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Marjorie Chilton, Janet Card, Yvonne Godsmark, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Reg Ruddock, Heather Hollis, Carol Shepherd **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: Peter Blackburn, David Mason

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 21st Richard Laker, Nancy Wilkes, 22nd Elsie Hemstead, Alexander Glasgow, Elizabeth Cadman, 23rd Gordon Jones, 24th Nina Mackie, Valerie Bray, Michael Josling, 25th Michael Buk, Phyllis Green, Sheena Berkeley, 26th Russell Murphy, Joseph Heyman, 27th Joan Wampach