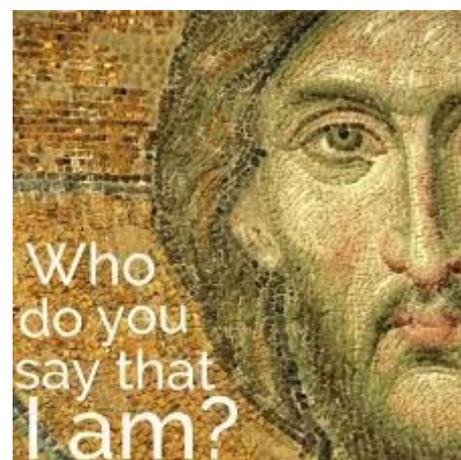


HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
The Second Sunday of Lent
28 February 2021

'To God who is everywhere, we come by love and not by navigation.'

St Augustine

Dear Friends,

Do join us for our Lent Course if you are free on either on Wednesday or Thursday evenings or Friday afternoons. We would love to see you on the Zoom link as we explore Christian Discipleship in this strange time in which we live.

As we see the extraordinary roll-out of the vaccine programme, I am reminded of the extraordinary gifts which each one of us bears; all so varied and different. So too the news of the gradually 'unlocking' of the nation for which we give thanks. What our faith in Jesus teaches us is that even in the most tumultuous times, we are accompanied in great love. It is our opening of ourselves to this knowledge which is the life-long task for you and me as sisters and brothers in Christ. This desire is strengthened by the inner presence of the Holy Spirit—the Comforter and fire of God's Love.

With my prayers and blessing,

Michael (Vicar)

Please check the church website for other details

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Second Sunday of Lent (28 February 2021) All services online only

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (online only)

Readers: Roger Edmonston & Isobel Simmonds; Intercessor: Mark Parker, Preacher: Clive Simmonds

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) *Readings: Jeremiah 18: 18-20; Matthew 20: 17-28*

8.00pm Lent Course (Zoom)

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *Readings: Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Luke 16: 19-end*

7.00pm Lent Course (Zoom)

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

3.00pm Lent Course (Zoom)

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent (7 March 2021)

9.45 The Family Eucharist (online only)

6.00pm Choral Evensong (online only)

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 Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery
of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
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:

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves
to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly
in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts
which may assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Romans 4: 13-end

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8: 31-end

Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

A thought

The readings from Mark's Gospel have been bouncing around over the past few weeks. We have had Transfiguration, Baptism and Temptation and now back to the scene immediately before the Transfiguration. Jesus asks the disciples who people believe him to be, and then who they believe him to be. Peter replies with the words, 'You are the Messiah,' and the reading follows on from that point. The question Jesus asks is just as much a question to you and me as to them. 'Who do **you** say I am.' In fact, all three readings consider faith and human response. In Genesis, Abraham seeks to impose his own will and conditions on the loving relationship offered by God. Abraham laughs in irony when told he is to be a patriarch and Sarah a matriarch of this covenant of love! A little later in the account, Sarah also laughs in disbelief, somewhat bitterly, when she hears that she is to have a child. God, of course, has the last laugh and confounds both with the birth of Isaac, when their ironic laughter becomes that of joy. The rule book of life is tuned upside down by God and they do indeed become faithful. Peter tries the same tack with Jesus and tries to impose the sort of Messiah he wishes Jesus to be. But as Paul emphasises, faith is the bridge that enables us to enter a new covenant lived in the knowledge that Jesus calls us to lives transformed by the knowledge of his great love revealed through his path to glory. Peter, who fails time and time again, eventually understands this promise in its entirety, and finds true life as he responds to the compelling and moulding power of the Holy Spirit.

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 in: Immediate need: Barbara Booth, Wendy Boys, Carla Spear, Wendy Hibling, Nicholas Frayling, Sheila Mitchell, Ben Brindley Codd, Ken Sagar, Justine, Graham Hibbert, Rodney Pratt

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, Reg Ruddock, Heather Hollis,

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: Harold Chandler

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 28th Alexander Gibson, David Collins, 1st Gordon Clack, Pamela Hamilton, Gladys Temple, Margaret Campion, Patricia Will, Harold Stenning, 2nd Helen Knowles, Gillian Fitt, 3rd Betty Richardson, Irene Harris, Jean Clout, 4th Malcolm Hopper, John Smith, 5th Robert Turner Inman, Dorothy Fullerton, 6th Douglas Birch, Ethel Ward