

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Quinquagesima - The Sunday before Lent
14 February 2021

'It is good, Lord, to be here!'

Dear Friends,

A burst of divine light in our Gospel reading before we return to the plain with the disciples journeying through everyday life as we start our Lenten journey towards growing more deeply in the knowledge of what Jesus achieves for us through Passion, Death and Resurrection. If you have time, I urge you to read Mark 9: 2-29. Think of the response of the father to Jesus, and what this teaches us about letting go—allowing our Faith in Jesus Christ to transform situations which might seem endless or intractable. We are loved. The divine light is always with us.

Ash Wednesday, this coming week—details below. Our Lent course begins the week after on Zoom - do join either on Wednesday evenings at 8.00 or on Friday afternoons at 3.00. The course is scripturally based this year, and promises to be a helpful preparation towards exploring and celebrating the fulness of life the Lord's Resurrection offers us. Do join us!

With blessings,

Michael

Please check the church website for further details:

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Quinquagesima - The Sunday next before Lent (14 February 2021)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (online only)

Readers: Kate Berry & Jane Haughton; Intercessor: Gerry Larner, Preacher: Father John Cleaver

Services during the week:

Ash Wednesday: 10.15: The Litany (BCP)

10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) *Readings: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6: 10; John 8: 1-11*

8.00pm Parish Eucharist *Preacher: Clive Simmonds (readings as above)*

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *Readings: Deuteronomy 30: 15-end; Luke 9: 22-25*

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *Readings: Ash Wednesday*

Next Sunday: First Sunday of Lent (21 February 2021)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (online only)

4.30pm IGNITE - our new informal worship service for the young and young at heart.

All services (other than the 8.30) 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 Sunday next before Lent

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death on the cross;
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness,
from glory to glory;
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 God,
we see your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table
reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know
his power to change and save.
This we ask through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9: 2-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

A thought

The readings this Sunday give us a glimpse of heavenly glory. In fact, we are flooded with heavenly light all round! In our first reading we heard the extraordinary account of Elijah ascending in the fiery chariot to the heavens, leaving Elisha with his cloak – the passing on of the prophetic cry to the world. Paul then uses extraordinary words in that second short reading. We are called to engage with the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. In other words, no matter what besets us, what calamities overwhelm us, no matter how deep the sorrows or depressions we might experience within life, in the Good News of Jesus Christ we have the life-giving knowledge that God is always with us, 'For,' as Paul tells us, 'it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.' Then we have the Transfiguration of Jesus when Peter, James and John are drawn to experience a moment of glory on Mount Tabor, after which the Lord turns his face towards Jerusalem.

We ourselves will start the Lenten journey this week towards the Church's annual pilgrimage remembering the death and resurrection of the one who loves each one of us with so great a love that he was prepared to give everything for you and me to draw us into new Life in him. However you decide to observe Lent, allow what you do (or don't do!) refresh you. Walk with Jesus on the journey he makes for you and be rewarded in knowing that through his death and resurrection, you too are called to be transfigured and united with him in God's Love.

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: Barbara Booth, Wendy Boys, Carla Spear, Wendy Hibling, Nicholas Frayling, Ben Brindley Codd, Ken Sagar, Justine

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, 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: Julia Whidborne, Peter Chandler, John Owen, Stephen Blanch

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 14th Bill Dixon, Tom Williams, Stella Burgess, Peter Harrison, 15th Mary Lisle, Ruby Murrell, Fances Barret, Jean Douglas, Gladys Smith, 16th James Forsyth, John Bourne, 17th Charlotte Smith, Janet Inch, Alan Page, Mary Harris, Michael Sadd, 18th Thelma Dixon, Sidnall William Stenning, 19th Gladys Webb, Barbara Hastings, Eleanor Springall, Betty Fry, 20th Ronald Middleton MBE