

# HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

*Joyfully serving Jesus*



*St. Peter Preaching in Jerusalem - Charles Poërsen  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art*

*Weekly devotions, prayers and news*  
**The Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
*9 May 2021*

My dear friends,

It is now over a year since life was turned upside-down by the pandemic, and humanity has had to find new ways of coping in all situations. Some people have been unable to do so, and others have been left scarred or feeling defeated by the way in which normality has been completely rewritten. Indeed, we are all still pen in hand!

This week marks Ascensiontide - the moment when Christians had to 'let go' of the Lord. In doing so, they then opened up the power of the Holy Spirit to transform the way they looked at and lived life, and this transformation is something which has overflowed from the Church into the world ever since.

Remember, my friends, that you, through **your** discipleship to Jesus Christ, are part of the greatest adventure humanity has open to it: knowing the love of God made known in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is none other than the fulness of life itself!

With love and prayers,

Michael

## **Sixth Sunday of Easter (9 May 2021)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** *(in church)*

*Reader: Charles Solomon*

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

*Readers: Carolyn Ponder & Helen Swift; Intercessor and Preacher: Vicky Peattie*

### **Services during the week:**

**Wednesday: 10.30** Holy Communion (C. Worship) Readings: Acts 17: 15, 22:-18: 1; John 16: 5-11

**Thursday: 9.00am** **THE ASCENSION DAY OF THE LORD**

*Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic)*

*Readings: Acts 1: 1-11; Ephesians 1: 15-end; Luke 24: 44-end*

**8.00pm** Sung Eucharist *(in church and zoomed)*

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

## **Next Sunday: Seventh Sunday of Easter (16 May 2021)**

**8.00 Holy Communion** *(in church)*

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

**4.30 IGNITE**

### **The Collect for the Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Risen Christ,  
by the lakeside you renewed  
your call to your disciples:  
help your Church to obey your command  
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Please check the church website for more details  
[www.holytrinitycuckfield.org](http://www.holytrinitycuckfield.org)

### **The Post Communion Prayer:**

God our Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ  
gives the water of eternal life:  
may we thirst for you,  
the spring of life  
and source of goodness,  
through him who is alive and reigns,  
now and for ever. Amen

## Acts 10: 44-end

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

## 1 John 5: 1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

## John 15: 9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

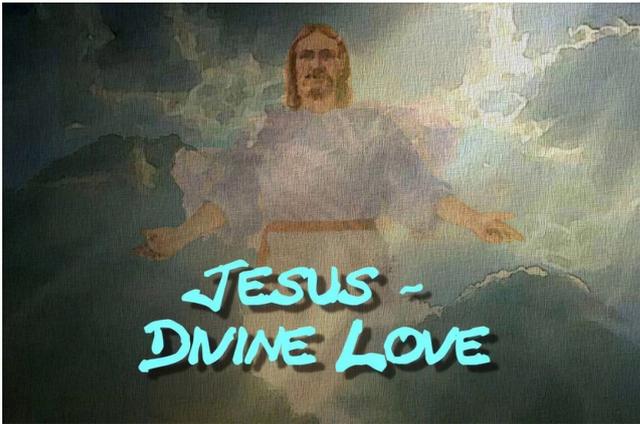
## A thought

Over the past couple of Sundays, we have pondered Jesus as the good shepherd and the true vine. This week we are almost overwhelmed by the Johannine call to love. I am inclined to say that we are being led on a journey in all these readings— an exploration of Jesus's call to his followers about what it means to be a disciple and ultimately what it means to be 'Church.' We are the pilgrim people of God - the sign of God's in-dwelling - called to reveal this extraordinary love to the world through our own humanity. And this exploration of who Jesus is and how we relate to him is as much a Resurrection encounter on every other day of the year as well as at Easter. We are Easter people, yet it is no coincidence that our Gospel reading is the same as that used for Maundy Thursday. We are back at the table of the Lord. Yet there is a difference in approach for us.

Knowing that we are called to encounter the Risen Lord during these great Fifty days of Easter helps us on our vocational journey to enter further into discipleship. Today it is no coincidence that we are called to love and follow him because he has revealed himself as faithful and loving to each one of us through death and resurrection. This is because Jesus identifies with each one of us through his own humanity. No matter what we must deal with, Jesus knows the same joy, the same pain that touches each of our lives, because he too has walked the path of humanity as one of us.

If we allow it, in Jesus, our desires and love are re-directed, re-aimed at God and we find our heart's anchor. Love is not passive, it is active, and it is obedient. God's love for each of us is never failing, revealed as it is through the

death and resurrection of Jesus. The Lord sums up for us just what the Christian life is all about: ***I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.***



**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, Justine, Sheila Mitchell, John Bernardi (priest), Kate Malby, Ros Thunder, Shirley Lewis, Rodney and Peta Pratt

**Long Term Need:** Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Anne Greenhill, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Mark Parker, Becky Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Marjorie Chilton, Janet Card, Yvonne Godsmark, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, **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: Catherine Dunnage, Angela Hopkins, Michael Hilton

**In our Book of Remembrance** this week we remember: 9th John Randtoul, 10th Muriel Robinson, Alice Glenister, Susan Hoad, Michael Sparshott, 11th George Anderson, Kathleen Bentley, Terence Darling, 12th Ronald Bailey, Ellen Harford, 13th Robert Brinley Codd, 14th Robert Aspinall, Dan Batchelor, Cyril Dixon, 15th Peter Grimwade, Donovan Thornton, Frances Barrett