

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
First Sunday after Trinity
6 June 2021

We do not lose heart 2 Corinthians 4: 1&16

My dear friends,

In the New Testament reading this Sunday, Paul states twice that 'we do not lose heart.' He is responding to the knowledge that persecution is rife against those seeking to follow Christ, yet he urges the Corinthians to carry on proclaiming 'the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ.' Yet, he says, 'we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.' Paul says that although there may be an outward sign of suffering because of the proclamation of the Gospel, nevertheless *the inner nature is being renewed every day.*

This call is as much to you and me, here in 2021 Cuckfield, as it was in first century Corinth. The light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is needed as much as it ever was. There is no real substitute for its transformational message. The Church (big C!) faces extraordinary challenges to proclaim the power of the God of Love. We live in a pretty hostile environment, much of it brought about by our failure to lead people towards the wellspring of life we believe is offered through a Triune God of mercy, justice and true peace. So we (because we **are** 'Church') have a job to do. Not one of us can afford to leave it to others.

With love and prayers,

Michael

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

First Sunday after Trinity (6 June 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Gerry Larner

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

6.00 Choral Evensong *Readers: John and Nickola Smith*

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) Columba, Abbot of Iona

Readings: Isaiah 61: 1-3; 1; Luke 12: 32-37

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *Readings: 2 Corinthians 3: 15-4: 1, 3-6; Matthew 5: 20-26*

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *Readings: First Sunday after Trinity*

Next Sunday: Second Sunday after Trinity (13th June 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(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 for First Sunday after Trinity

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son,
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:

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Genesis 3: 8-15

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

2 Corinthians 4: 13-5: 1

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Mark 3: 20-end

and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'— for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.' Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

A thought

Mark uses the family of Jesus to make a point about discipleship, coming up with something which is a new understanding of relationship. In fact, if you are looking for the concept to a Christian family in this passage, forget it! God was doing a new thing in Jesus - expanding what it meant to be bonded to another person the way we are in a family, and Jesus called attention to this. When Jesus declared, "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother," it challenged the Jewish culture around him. No longer are you close to God because you were born into a Jewish household; no longer do you just take care of your own kind; instead, your family is being extended to anyone who does the will of God. What a fantastic liberation from boundaries enforced by religious lawyers!

Today, it challenges us to look beyond our walls, our denominational lines, our socio-economic status, and our faith to see our brothers and sisters and mothers. God calls us to expand our family in ways that are just as shocking as it was to the Gospel of Mark's first-century audience. And sometimes this comes at cost to our own relationships. What this revolutionary view of relationship reveals is that our faith throws a new light on all things and makes know the full ideal which God has set for the whole of humanity. What a privilege it is to proclaim this in all that we do.

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, 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, Ruth Baker

Please remember the recently departed and their families:

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 6th Jill Castle, Ronald Knight, David Salter, Penny Thornton, 8th Bill Macdougall, Alison Petitpierre, 9th Doris Humphrey, Elizabeth Wadstein, 10th John Stead, Basil Beard, 11th Elizabeth Howard