

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
The Second Sunday after Trinity
13 June 2021

The love of Christ urges us on

2 Corinthians 5: 14

My dear friends,

Isn't nature an extraordinary thing to behold at this time of the year. My hostas are on the doorstep of the Vicarage, and were just tiny buds showing through in each pot when I placed them there just three weeks ago. Now they have burst into abundant life through the warmth of the sun and some good Sussex rain!

This is very much a metaphor of growing in faith. We need to nurture the knowledge of the wonder of God's love for us through prayer, Bible, study and sacrament. In doing so we too begin to thrive. Sometimes we might feel 'dry' in spiritual terms, yet our faith always provides the water and nutrients to enable us to move forward. In the most personal terms. As Paul comments, 'The love of Christ urges us on.' In the knowledge of this, our lives and the way we view the world become sacramental in every way.

As we continue to move forward in this strange time, let us all seek to be nourished by the God who never fails to cherish and love us, and each know our connection to Jesus, the true and life-giving vine.

With love and prayers,

Michael

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Second Sunday after Trinity (13 June 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)* Reader: Margaret Thistlethwaite

9.45 The Parish Eucharist *(in church and online)* Readers: Carolyn Ponder & Helen Swift;
Intercessor: Jane Coan, Preacher: Vicky Peattie

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) Richard of Chichester

Readings: Job 23: 8-14; 1 Corinthians 15: 20-28; John 21: 15-19

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: 2 Corinthians 11: 1-11; Matthew 6: 7-15

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

Next Sunday: Third Sunday after Trinity (20th June 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

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

4.30 Ignite - our monthly online worship with testimony and song

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 Second Sunday after Trinity

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
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:

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us
at the supper of your Son:
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Ezekiel 17: 22-end

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Mark 4: 26-34

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

A thought

All three readings today talk of growth. Nature fills both the passage from Ezekiel and the Gospel of Mark. Paul too talks of growth—the love of Christ urges us on, he says. We never stand still in Faith terms—we should always seek to grow in our understanding of our Gospel call. Jesus gives us the parable of the Mustard Seed. It's very likely that this is a humorous retelling by Jesus of the Ezekiel passage. Now, alas, we sometimes can't appreciate the joke, we put on our Sunday serious ears! Perhaps too, it doesn't translate well. But that grounding people would have had in the scriptures at the time of Jesus, would probably have immediately allowed them to see what he was doing.

In fact, there is almost what we would describe as a burlesque element in the way Jesus turns Ezekiel's metaphor for the Kingdom of God (because that is what the Kingdom of David was regarded as) from a mighty cedar into.....a bush. And not even into some beautiful shrub, more of a weed really! Mark the Gospel writer gives us the story straight – it's a bush. Matthew and Luke obviously found this so challenging that they changed the bush

into a mighty tree! Nevertheless, it shows us what our Faith is capable of, and the transformation it offers to both individuals and indeed to the world.



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 Pratt, Becky Parker

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Anne Greenhill, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Mark 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: 13th Claire Taverner, Clarice Malins, Kay Salisbury, Eva Sayers, Stephanie Vander, Dorothy Barton, 14th Joan Humphries, 15th Gwen Gurr, Dorothy Yetton, Marjorie Bolton, Phyllis Scadden, Winifred Rollitt, 16th Ernest Malins, Montague Lowe, 17th Wendy King, Ian Waterhouse, Edna Harland, 18th Ruth Brown, Peter Pawson,, 19th Kenneth Bunker