

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Fifth Sunday after Trinity
4 July 2021

'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'

My dear friends,

At many times during this pandemic I am sure that people have felt utterly discouraged with things. It will have taken a very robust individual not to have experienced disorientation with the restrictions placed on us for the greater good. In many cases home became a prison. The news has abounded with reports of the rise of marital problems, abuse et al. There is some sense of this disconnection in the Gospel reading this week when Jesus is himself discouraged that his own people don't respond to the Kingdom call. There is a feeling that familiarity closes their minds to God's call to abundant life - they simply do not recognise this in the son of Mary - a mere carpenter. Yet in him is the fulness of God and life itself. However, he moves on, and tells his disciples to do the same.

You and I are blessed with the knowledge of Jesus Christ within our lives through the gift of Baptism. We gather in church and online to be fed by the one who gives everything to draw us to the rich life of the Kingdom. We are called to proclaim this in whatever way we can. In Paul's response to the Corinthians (see overleaf), he too experiences the 'lows' as well as 'highs' of faith in Christ. He was caught up in a vision of Paradise, yet also knew 'weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ.' He never gave up. Let each of us like Paul take courage from this, and heed the call of Jesus to draw all we know to him.

With love,

Michael

Fifth Sunday after Trinity (4 July 2021)

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

8.00 Holy Communion (in church) Reader: Gerry Larnar

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

11.15 Family Praise - a short joyful service, outdoors if fine (in church if wet!)

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion Readings: Genesis 41:55-end, 42:5-7, 17-end; Matthew 10:1-7

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Genesis 44: 18-21, 23-29, 45: 1-5; Matthew 10: 7-15

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

Next Sunday: Sixth Sunday after Trinity (11th July 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

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

6.00 Choral Evensong (in church and online)

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 Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
send down upon your Church
the riches of your Spirit,
and kindle in all who minister the gospel
your countless gifts of grace;
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:

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be
so peaceably ordered
by your governance,
that your Church
may joyfully serve you
in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Ezekiel 2: 1-5

He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Mark 6: 1-13

Jesus left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

A thought

Home is so sad. It stays as it was left
Shaped to the comfort of the last to go
As if to win them back, Instead, bereft
Of anyone to please, it withers so,
Having no heart to put aside the theft

These rather bleak words by Philip Larkin will discomfort us, yet in a sense give an understanding of the way in which Jesus was treated in his home town. Even Jesus had to explore the way in which he conveyed the Good News. The Gospel message disturbs our common understanding of that old saying, 'home is where the heart is.' Here Jesus marvels at the unbelief of his own people. Yet he doesn't stop. He proclaims the Kingdom elsewhere and tells the disciples that they must be light of foot in their mission too. This is as relevant to us as them. The Church needs this same sense of both urgency that we are sharing the treasure of the Good News of Jesus Christ together with an almost prophetic calling in the way we do actually share it. Some will be hospitable in hearing the Good News and others will not. That is fine. God works in mysterious ways, and although we may find hostility or discouragement, God is with us as we seek to build the Kingdom. Home is where the heart is—and home is where God meets us. This is a very different home from bricks and mortar—the true home of the Spirit is the human soul.

A prayer for this time of anxiety:

**God of all compassion, your love never fails.
Help us to listen to the tranquility
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, Becky Parker, Jenny Burke, Andrew, Keith Thompson

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Anne Greenhill, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Julie Sadler, Mark Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, 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: Rodney Pratt, Angela Stirner, Marjorie Chilton

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 4th Walter Horn, Kathleen James, Jose Brown, 5th Edna Liddell, Patricia Bullen, Betty Cripps, Diana Jennings, 6th Martha Dutton, Evelyn Graydon, 7th Elisabeth Dunnett, 8th Kenneth Kleinwort, 9th Brian page, 10th Dorothy Trevitwick,