

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Seventh Sunday after Trinity
18 July 2021

This is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

My dear friends,

We might sometimes miss the power of the Old Testament writers. If so, read what Jeremiah says to us overleaf! It makes uncomfortable reading. Jeremiah is talking of the dissolute monarchs who have failed to uphold either the faith or welfare of the people. One might apply this to the government of any country –the so-called governing class. You and I have a responsibility to speak out against injustice or poor decisions made in our name. The paradox is, of course, the fact that we elect our politicians because we don't necessarily want to make decisions which affect others ourselves! At the same time as challenging, we have to balance the fact that (most) politicians undertake their role because they care deeply about their countries. Usually only in despotic regimes are rulers in it for mere control, power and money.

Called to challenge situations we disagree with, we are also to display healing within our everyday lives. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are to reveal the compassion Jesus offers through 'generous love' (*Newman: Praise to the Holiest*). In other words, whilst challenging, we are called to love as Christ does even those with whom we profoundly disagree.

With love,

Michael

Seventh Sunday after Trinity (18 July 2021)

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

8.00 Holy Communion (*in church*) Reader: Ralph Colbran

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

Readers: Valerie Poxon & Carolyn Ponder; Intercessor: David Jamieson

3.00 Pets Service (*all creatures welcome - with their keepers - as long as they are under control - the animals, I mean!*)

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (*in church & online*) Readings: Exodus 16: 1-5, 9-15; Matthew 13: 1-9

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (*Iona/Celtic*) **Mary Magdalene** (*online only*)

Readings: Song of Solomon 3: 1-4, 2 Corinthians 5: 14-17; John 20: 1-2, 11-18

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*) Readings: Seventh Sunday after Trinity (*online only*)

Next Sunday: Eighth Sunday after Trinity (25th July 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (*in church*)

9.45 Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism (*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 Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
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:

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup,
we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Ephesians 2: 11-end

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Mark 6: 30-34, 53-end

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

A thought

It was a natural enough reaction for Jesus to see the crowds as like 'sheep without a shepherd', seething and swirling around him, desperately in need of guidance and direction. Taking pity on them, he begins to teach — Mark doesn't say what he tells them. Clearly, however, Jesus gathers the people round him. In effect he takes on the role of shepherd, so natural an analogy in the particular circumstances, but of course charged with such a lengthy list of biblical precedents, all the way back to Abraham, our father in faith. As our first reading insists, there will be 'shepherds for them the people who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and nor shall any be missing, says the Lord'. Christ is the true shepherd, as is revealed in St John's Gospel. Yet, as Jeremiah says, there will also be unfaithful shepherds. Thus, as we gather as Christ's flock to be renewed by faith in the true shepherd, and whilst giving thanks for the fidelity of the great majority of pastors in the Church, we surely cannot but echo, in these days when churches burn in different areas of the world, the woe that the prophet Jeremiah pronounces against those, by whose scandalous behaviour, a generation has been driven away throughout the world.

You and I have a task—that of healing and drawing others to know the true life found in Jesus Christ. There is no substitute. He is the **WAY** the **TRUTH** and the **LIFE**. May we have grace so that we don't fail him in this task. It is simply the most important thing we can do with our lives.

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, Becky Parker, Jenny Burke, 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

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 18th Peter Kapff, 19th Dorothy Duthie, 20th Tony Fabb, David Kerr, Barrie Galbraith, 21st Jack Barnard, Roger Petitpierre, Richard Hall,, Douglas Hollis (priest), 22nd William Sayers, Margaret Coomber, Gladys Tidey, Doris Prebble, 23rd Percival Abbot, Shirley Deakin, Brian Norman, 24th Richard Beard, William Baxter