

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Ninth Sunday after Trinity
1st August 2021

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Dear Friends,

The Gospel readings from last Sunday onwards (only interrupted by the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15th) lead us on a considerable journey using John 6. If you read the chapter, you may find yourself as perplexed as many over the course of centuries have been. Yet what John wants us to understand is that in Jesus, all of our spiritual wants will be satisfied.

This message is as much for 2021 as it was in first century Palestine. Jesus IS the true and living bread—the one who offers us the fulness of life. Yet there is no compulsion; just the longing of the God who loves us to recognise that - Spirit-filled - in following Jesus we have the capacity not only to transform our lives, but also the world! It certainly needs this transformation. You and I are called to break down the barriers of division, hatred and oppression; to bring about the spirit of a New Jerusalem - here and now. It is the greatest call anyone can make.

With love,

Michael

Ninth Sunday after Trinity (1 August 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)* Reader: Gerry Lerner

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

Readers: Isobel Simmonds & Carolyn Ponder, Intercessor:

11.15 Family Praise - short, informal and joyful worship *(outdoors if fine, in church if wet!)*

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *(in church & online)*

Readings: Numbers 13: 1-2, 25-14: 1, 26-35; Matthew 15: 21-28

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Oswald, King of Northumbria *(online only)*

Readings: 1 Peter 4: 12-19; John 16: 29-33

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) **The Transfiguration of The Lord** *(online only)*

Next Sunday: Tenth Sunday after Trinity (8th August 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

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

6.00 Sung Evensong

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 Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in 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:

Holy Father, who gathered us here
around the table of your Son
to share this meal with the
whole household of God:
in that new world where you reveal
the fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and language
to share in the eternal banquet
of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.'

Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining."' And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God."'

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.'

Ephesians 4: 1-16

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said,

'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'

(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth?

He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

John 6: 24-35

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.' Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

A thought

Last week, the feeding of the 5,000, and now we move to the exploration of Jesus as the true bread of life; the one in whom all hungers are satisfied. Don't be put off as we move through this passage - the people themselves were puzzled and many were unable to comprehend that Jesus is the living Icon of the living God, and calls us to also reflect that self-same love by following him and knowing that he is always with us.

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, Keith Thompson, Carole Wooldridge, Garry Diprose

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: Michael Barlow, Joachim Atkinson, Fiona Coveney

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 2nd David Revill, Kenneth Keymer, Dorothy Young, 3rd Steve Dant, Margaret Henley, Helen Heap, 4th Michael Symonds, Marjory Norris, 5th John Lewis, Susan Cooke, 6th Marjorie Dewey, Bessie Bliss, 7th David Covell, Richard Bostock