

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
The Tenth Sunday after Trinity
8th August 2021

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us giving himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5: 1-2.

Dear Friends,

I am always struck by the fact that certain passages of Scripture can sometimes be made to 'fit' a situation or even an entire age. This might be said of our lesson from Ephesians this week, of which this is a part: *Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us.* Of itself, this is a very laudable and beautiful passage. It talks to us as members of the Body of Christ, and might then be applied to our engagement with the world. Yet, of course, even when it was written, division stalked the Church, and Christians were being persecuted pretty much as they are today. This is why the second part of this passage gives holy resonance to our task as Christians: Jesus gave *'himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.'* Ephesians 5: 1-2.

Let us never forget the cost of Christ's self-giving love for us. How we respond to that defines how we live our lives as followers of 'The Way' If churches were to burn here as they do in Canada, how would we respond?

With love,

Michael

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Tenth Sunday after Trinity (8 August 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church) Reader: Margaret Thistlethwaite

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

Readers: Kate Berry & Helen Swift; Intercessor: Tony Lawrence

6.00 Choral Evensong Readers: John & Nickola Smith

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Hosea 2: 14-14, 19-20; 2 Corinthians 4: 6-10; John 15: 4-10

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

Readings: Joshua 3: 7-11, 13-17; Matthew 18: 21-19:1

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

Next Sunday: The Blessed Virgin Mary (Trinity 11) (15th August 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

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

12noon Holy Baptism

1pm Holy Baptism

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 Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples
to be persistent in prayer,
give us patience and courage never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you;
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:

God of our pilgrimage,
you have willed that the gate of mercy
should stand open for those who trust in you:
look upon us with your favour
that we who follow the path of your will
may never wander from the way of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

1 Kings 19: 4-8

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

Ephesians 4: 25-5: 2

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

John 6: 35, 41-51

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.

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

A thought

In the gospel today people are complaining –they are 'murmuring' just like the Israelites in the desert – but they are not complaining about a lack of food. They are complaining that Jesus seems too ordinary, perhaps too human. They know him, they know his family. The problem is not one of communication. Many of them would readily have understood the implications of what Jesus is saying. The giving of manna, the feeding of the chosen people with bread from heaven, was often associated in Jewish minds with the giving of divine teaching. In other words Jesus is clearly giving his teaching a unique status – he sees his own teaching as indispensable and as life-giving as our daily bread. In what he says we can hear an echo of those words from the book of Proverbs (9:5) –'Come, eat of my bread'. As we move further through this chapter, we will then see a shift to our understanding that through the Eucharist, we are fed spiritually - the Son meets us in a dynamic of Love. However, here we concentrate on the sense of sometimes having to wrestle with a text in order to receive the fulness of its message. However hard, it is always worth it!

In the brief extract from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians we are reminded that we no longer suffer from an inability to relate to the Father or to His Son. The apostle assures us that because Christ has sacrificed himself for us we can now recognize that we are God's children and even imitate the Father's love. Liberated by the Spirit, our communities can truly become the models of harmony that God intends. We have the task and joy of preaching the word and we may still have very positive reasons to fast and exercise self-discipline; but we have no reason to complain, no reason to doubt God's providence. This is what the richness of Trinitarian life opens for all people.

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Joachim Atkinson, Fiona Coveney

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 8th Frederick Baker, 10th Guy Nicholson, Aileen Craigen, Linda Duffy, 11th Sheila Emmens, Winifred Stevens, 12th Alexander Wallace, 13th Richard Taylor, Olive Stenning, Catherine Thurgood, Diane Ede, Maureen Gallini, 14th Ronald Wadhams 15th Mabel Clarke, Anne Lindsay