

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity** 19th September 2021

My dear friends,

In his powerful book, 'Morality - Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times,' Jonathan Sacks tackles many of the shibboleths erected and promoted by different groups within current society which bring division and, in some cases, a lack of empathy or even hatred for those whose opinions differ. In exploring religion, Sacks points to the fact that it 'awakens us to transcendence. It redeems our solitude. It breaks the carapace of selfhood and opens us and others to the world.'

No political system can replicate the way in which Christianity calls us always to think of the way in which we interact with each other and the world as 'we' rather than 'I.' Faith in Jesus Christ calls us to challenge in whatever way we can the divisions, fragmentation, extremism and isolation of the present age with every fibre of our being - to seek to live as people who display the spirit of the New Jerusalem John describes in Revelation 21: 15-end. We are called to offer all nations the glory and honour of the fulness of life itself through the one who gave himself for each one of us.

With love,

Michael

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (19th September 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (*in church*) Reader: Charles Solomon

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

Readers: Robyn Brotherton & Valerie Poxon; Intercessor: Revd. Stephen Caple

6.00 Sung Evensong (*in church and online*)

Reader: Carolyn Ponder

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Ezra 9: 5-9; Luke 9: 1-6

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) (*in church and online*)

Readings: Haggai 1: 1-8; Luke 9: 7-9

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Trinity XV I (*in church only*)

Next Sunday: Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (26th September 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion (*in church*)

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

12noon Holy Baptism Rupert Lennon Beresford

1.00 Holy Baptism Jake William Gardner, Ava Beatrice Gardner & Penelope Grace Gardner

Some services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website, before entering a waiting 'area' and joining everyone.

The Collect for Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Lord of creation,
whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
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:

Almighty God,
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Wisdom 1: 16-2: 1, 12-22

But the ungodly by their words and deeds summoned death; considering him a friend, they pined away and made a covenant with him, because they are fit to belong to his company. For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, 'Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a life comes to its end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. 'Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected.' Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls;

James 3: 13-4: 3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Mark 9: 30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

A thought

Jesus uses the example of a child in our Gospel reading. We can speculate about the meaning of a later saying of Jesus that it is to such as children that the kingdom of God belongs (10.14) but in this passage the key point about the child is that in that time and place a child had absolutely no status whatsoever. A child was totally dependent on others and in this sense powerless. If you wanted to select a person of the least importance then a child was a good choice. Jesus puts the unimportant child in the centre of the room. He gives the child the most important place and then takes the child in his arms. The one of no status is given the position of greatest honour. The last is placed first. It is in receiving such a person notwithstanding his or her total lack of standing or status or importance, that a follower of Christ will receive God the Father. Jesus turns their whole way of looking at themselves and others completely upside down.

If you were to list those in our world to whom effectively we accord no status it would be a very long list. This gospel passage asks of us that we begin to rethink our attitude to many people, and it should lead us to ponder all the more deeply what Jesus is doing when he becomes last of all and servant of all on the cross.

In the words of an old hymn: 'Come. Let us sing of a wonderful love.'

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), Keith Thompson, Trevor, Yvonne Godsmark, Maureen Griffiths, Paul Simpson, Pam Sagar, David Dennis

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, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Carole Wooldridge, Kate Malby, Becky Parker,

Those in Care Homes: Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker

Please remember the recently departed and their families: John Beard, Peter Brown, Rosemary Powell, Sir John Herbecq, Ronald Craigen

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 19th Brian Hillman, 20th Elsie Farley, 21st William Smith, Robert Arendt, 22nd Olive Caplan, Joan Stevens, 23rd Jack Swain, Len Smith, Patricia Hague, 24th John Jellioe, 25th Donald Goldfinch