

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

Christ the King

21 November 2021

Look! He is coming with the clouds—every eye will see him

My dear friends,

This Sunday we have our Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration for those departed ones whom we love yet see no longer. November is often called the month of remembering, and such services give us the opportunity to give thanks for our departed relatives and friends. Sometimes it can also bring us healing when we have experienced strains or breakdown in relationships.

It seems appropriate that we do so this year on the Feast of Christ the King. In faith terms, we are called to consider that however things are broken within our own lives, we know the total connection of the one of whom Pilate asked, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus responds by talking about truth. This truth is the knowledge of God's love for each one of us, revealed as Jesus gives himself on the cross for the life of the world. This is the greatest truth humanity will ever know: total self-giving love. Jesus offers himself to draw us to the heart of God who says 'I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'

With love,
Michael

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Christ the King (21st November 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Margaret Thistlethwaite and Ralph Colbran

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

Readers: Robyn Brotherton and Valerie Poxon

4.00 Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration *(in church & online)*

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Daniel 5: 1-6, 13-14; Luke 21: 12-19

Wednesday: 6.30 Space for Grace

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

Readings: Daniel 6: 12-end; Luke 21: 20-18

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion *(Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Trinity XXV shall be used (in church)*

Saturday: 8.30 Advent Service of Light *(followed by breakfast in church)*

Next Sunday: Advent Sunday (28th November 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.00 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

12noon Holy Baptism *Ena Rosa Chard*

1.00 Holy Baptism *Charles Oliver Glenn*

6.00 Advent Darkness to Light Carol Service *(in church & online)*

For services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website

The Collect for Christ the King

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.
Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth
the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Revelation 1: 4b-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

John 18: 33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

A thought

Imagine yourself there, in a dusty hall surrounded by Roman soldiers, sweating in the heat of Jerusalem- Pilate views the prisoner before him, taken in the Garden of Gethsemane and already spat upon by some members of the Sanhedrin. Then the first question – *Are you the King of the Jews?* Jesus reverses the interrogation – and what follows provides us with the theological heart of the trial. Pilate, of course, can only imagine kingship in earthly terms.....and in Roman terms where kings were appointed largely as puppets of the Roman Emperor. '*My kingdom is not from this world – my kingdom is not from here.*' '*So you are a King?*' '*You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world to testify to the truth.*'

In other words, Jesus doesn't deny kingship', but subordinated to the primary reason for his ministry – for his dwelling amongst us. Remember that the moment of glory for John is when Jesus is raised on high on the cross. Jesus is revealed as the truth – the Revelation of God that strips away any delusion and self-centeredness and draws us into the divine communion of love. This is the only *true* freedom, the only satisfaction of life - Jesus Christ- who reveals his kingship though humility beyond compare- offers to everyone a relationship that is both royal and divine. We are called to be signs of the kingdom, here and now. The Kingdom is not something only attainable through withdrawal from the world. We are called to root ourselves in the world, all the while keeping our vision focussed on the eternal love of God which has no end. - True freedom is revealed to us on the tree of Calvary.

'It is only because he became like us that we can become like him.' — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, (The Cost of Discipleship)

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, John Bernardi (priest), Maureen Griffiths, John Smith, Tim Burrows , The Parker Family

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Anne Greenhill, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Julie Sadler, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Janet Card, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Carole Wooldridge, Kate Malby, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Wendy Boys

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Justine Mullins, Reginald Homes MBE. Sheila Mitchell

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 21st Phyllis Smale, Alfred Humphries, Brian Gehlcken, Guy Berkeley, 22nd Derek Tidey, 23rd George Pinney, Colin Stockton, Jacqueline Clinton, 24th John Guest, 25th Ambrose Upton, Christopher Collins, Queenie Searle, Janet Bradbury, 27th Marjorie Harrison, Lillian Carter, David Hansom