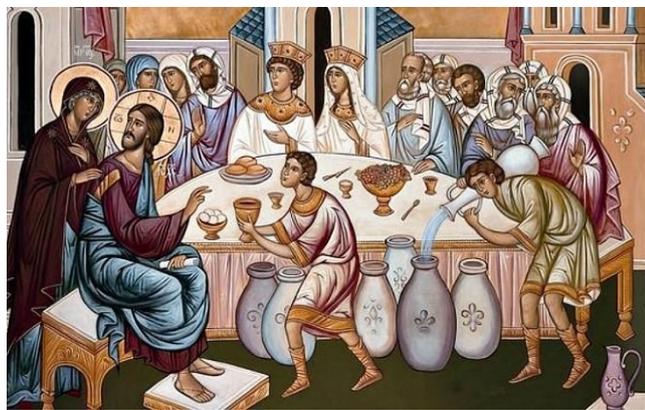


HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
The Second Sunday of Epiphany
16th January 2022

His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

My dear friends,

I am always profoundly moved by the account of the wedding at Cana. It speaks to us of the vagaries and uncertainties of life. Yet there is Jesus in the midst of it. His mother plays a pivotal role, representing Holy Wisdom. I believe that her words, 'Do whatever he tells you,' addressed to the servants, are John's call to us to view his Gospel as the call of Jesus within our lives. I know I have recounted this before (I repeat myself!), but in the south west corner of our great medieval roof are the two names: Jesu and Maria. I don't know if Kempe's painters were restoring what was there or placing the names there anew, but they always remind me of the Wedding Feast.

Ultimately, we are all called to the Wedding Feast of the Lamb as members of the Church. John the Divine writes: *I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev 21: 1-2)* This wonderful vision begins here and now as you and I display the transformation Christ offers to all. We are signs of the rich wine of the Kingdom, the new Jerusalem.

With love,

Michael

Second Sunday of Epiphany (16th January 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Margaret Thistlethwaite & Ralph Colbran

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

Readers: Carolyn Ponder & Vicky Peattie;

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *(in church & online)* Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester

Readings: 1 Samuel 16: 1, 16-23; 1 Corinthians 4: 1-5; Matthew 24: 42-46

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

Readings: 1 Samuel 18: 6-9, 19: 1-7; Mark 3: 7-12

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *Readings: Second Sunday of Epiphany (in church)*

Church website www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Epiphany (23rd January 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

6.00 Sung Evensong

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

The Collect for Second Sunday of Epiphany

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
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:

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen

Isaiah 62: 1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

1 Corinthians 12: 1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

John 2: 1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

A thought

As John, the gospel writer, portrays it, this is a threshold event. Not only does it stand at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, but it also tells of movement, of transition, from one level of experience, one level of understanding, to another, for many of the characters who appear in these village nuptials - a movement, a shift in perception, which inevitably changes them. A marriage is being celebrated - and that of itself speaks of change, of passing over into a new reality, a new identity, as man and woman become husband and wife, and two individuals become a single unit - a new creation - matter and spirit, earth and heaven. It speaks of coherence, balance, fullness and completion. It is not for nothing that the Scriptures end with the Book of Revelation and the vision of the bride coming down out of heaven for the wedding feast of the Lamb. For the disciples there is a shift in their perception of Jesus; and an epiphany takes place for them. They see something in him which they haven't seen clearly before. As John puts it, 'they believed in him.' And for Jesus too a threshold is crossed. He now steps into the public gaze, and engages directly with the awkwardness and uncertainties of the human condition - its celebrations and aspirations, and its helplessness and vulnerabilities in the face of the unpredictable and wayward circumstances. There is no drama, no hype, nothing over the top - just the simple commands - to fill the water jars with water up to the brim and then to draw some out and take it to the chief steward. For the servants too there was an epiphany; something given to them - some kind of insight, some kind of understanding. Mary plays the pivotal role in this, and indeed in the way we are to view the whole Gospel: 'Do whatever he tells you.' This is both our call and privilege.

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, Paul Simpson, Tim Burrows, David Davidson, Carol Cox, Tony Burbidge, Jane Terry, Martin Packham

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

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: Diane Giles, Brian Brown

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember 16th Frank Stirner, Rita Camp, 17th Jane Annells, 18th Alan Graydon, 19th Isabel Bravo, 20th Elsie Laker, John Upton, 21st Sally Adams, Kenneth Hilton, William Wilkes, 22nd Alistair White, Valerie Hollinghurst, Dorothy Cox, Hilary Ruddock