

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Sexagesima *The Second Sunday before Lent*
20th February 2022

'Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.'

My dear friends,

I am loving the sequence of Sunday readings leading up to the Season of Lent. This Sunday we hear the second creation story from Genesis - a masterpiece of composition designed to consider the intimacy of the indwelling God within the whole of creation.

The otherness of God's majesty is conjured up by John in the Book of Revelation. It is perhaps one of the most difficult of all Scriptures to inhabit. John the Divine was, of course linking his visions with the tumultuous times in which he lived. Yet there is much for us to grasp from his writing. We, too, live in a time of increasing disruption. At the core of the book is the extraordinary acknowledgement that in Jesus Christ, all are offered the spring of the water of life.

Water is also prominent in our Gospel reading - the Calming of the Storm. Here we are to 'marry' the understanding of the other two passages together in the face of the one who gives everything to enable us to know the divine balm of love within every aspect of our lives. What blessings we are offered through faith!

With love,

Michael

Sexagesima - The Second Sunday before Lent (20th February 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Ralph Colbran & Margaret Thistlethwaite

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

Readers: Robyn Brotherton & Valerie Poxon;

12noon Holy Baptism Noah Costello

1.00 Holy Baptism Harley Brendan & Katie Louise Kerri Griffiths, Danny Gordan Albert Wickes

6.00 Sung Evensong *(in church)*

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Revelation 2: 8-11; John 15: 1-8

Wednesday: 6.00 Space for Grace

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

Readings: James 5: 1-6; Mark 9: 41-end

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: **Sexagesima** *(in church)*

Friday: 2.30 Memorial Service for John Smith

Next Sunday: Quinquagesima - The Sunday before Lent (27th February 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

The Collect for Second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
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 our creator, by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart
of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life
at the heart of your Church: may we
who have been nourished at your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's
cross and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-end

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Revelation Ch. 4

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, 'Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.' At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and cornelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

'Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.' And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.'

Luke 8: 22-25

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

A thought

Three wonderful readings, each giving us some glimpse of how we might view our relationship with God. The rather playful nature of the creation story - God bringing creature to the man to name - reveals the relational understanding of faith. The majesty of God is imagined by John in Revelation - stupendous and more wonderful that we can conceive - the living creatures, the crystal sea and the thrice 'Holy, holy, holy.' Finally in our Gospel reading the two are married together in the face of Jesus Christ - true God and true man, where all that we can comprehend of God's love for us is displayed in the grace of the life of he who gave himself for us.

A Parish Prayer

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, Carol Cox, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Maureen Prett

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Christopher, Janet Card, George Snashall, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, David Davidson,

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: Anthony Burbidge, Shirley Lewis, Dave Cox, Ros Ayling

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember 20th Ronald Middleton MBE, 22nd Leigh McKay, 24th Heidi Simpson, 25th Eric McMillar, Mogens Keir, Auguste Thompson, Sheena Berkeley, 26th Cyril Barton, Michael Ditt