

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Passion Sunday - Fifth Sunday of Lent
3 April 2022

Jesus said, 'Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.'

This week we move on from the joy of family life celebrated on Mothering Sunday and begin with Our Lord that final journey to Jerusalem and Golgotha. On the surface Passiontide, and particularly its climax on Good Friday, makes little sense to the modern western world, and yet it is at the heart of our faith. Hopefully this year we can stay with the horror and the madness of the cross and discern that kernel of divine love running through it and perhaps even begin to make some sense of the horror and madness of the war in Ukraine.

The last few weeks we have been asking for your thoughts about the appointment of our new vicar. A big thank you to everyone who contributed many different ideas which will help us both tell the Diocese what we are looking for and make a choice when the time comes.

As usual, we enclose the Weekly Sheet, with the readings for Sunday, and the prayer needs of those within our community for you to use as we journey the week ahead together.

Jane and Brian

Please check the church website for more details

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Fifth Sunday of Lent (3 April 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Gerry Larner

9.45 The Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

Readers: Kate Berry & Isobel Simmonds; Intercessor: Philip Richings

11.15 Family Praise

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30am Holy Communion (Common Worship) *(in church and online)*

Readings: Daniel 3: 14-20, 24-25, 28; John 8: 31-42

12.30pm Funeral—Fiona Murray

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion *(in church and online)*

Readings: Genesis 17: 3-9; John 8: 51-end

7.00pm Lent course *(online)*

Friday: 9.30am Holy trinity School KS1 Easter Service

10.30am Holy Trinity School KS2 Easter Service

Please note the 11am Communion Service today is cancelled

3.00pm Lent Course *(in Church)*

Next Sunday: Palm Sunday (10 April 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church and online)*

6.00 The Cross of Christ a devotion in music and word for Palm Sunday *(in church and online)*

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

The Collect Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
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:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us
that what we do for the least of
our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen

Isaiah 43: 16-21

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Philippians 3: 4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

John 12: 1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

The 'thought'

In our Gospel today, Mary, who hung on Jesus' every word, got up from the table, let down her hair, opened a jar of powerfully scented nard ointment, anointed Jesus' feet, and began wiping them with her hair.

Although it is tempting to lose oneself in a web of whys, examining all the reasons Mary's action was scandalous, breaking social conventions, disrupting the intimacy of the dinner, distracting from the return of Lazarus, staying with the story itself evokes a depth and meaning that is far more powerful.

Judas, with his gaze firmly fixed on the 'Almighty Pound', critiques Mary's behaviour on economic grounds. "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" In other words, Judas sees Jesus anointed and scoffs, "What a waste!"

Jesus then makes explicit what John the Gospel writer had already made implicit: the day was coming soon when he himself would be poured out as a costly and precious sacrifice for the life of the world. Jesus says, "You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." Although we often hear those words with a degree of confusion, the dinner guests and Judas, in particular, would have known exactly what Jesus was up to. He was rebuking Judas' protest by quoting the Torah, Deuteronomy 15:11, to be exact.

"You always have the poor with you..." would have fallen on Jewish ears in the same way that "Do unto others as..." falls on our own ears. "You always have the poor with you," the commandment begins, and those who heard Jesus utter it could finish the verse for themselves: "Therefore I command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.'" In other words, this is not a missed opportunity to serve the poor and needy; rather, this is a prime opportunity to be in communion and fellowship with the One whose days were numbered.

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, John Bernardi (priest), Paul Simpson, Tim Burrows, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Ralph Wilkins

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, Maureen Griffiths, Carol Cox

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Fiona Murray, David Davidson, Stephanie Gilpin

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 3rd Robert Bryson, Bruce Spencer, Bernard Watts, Arthur Goad, 4th Mark Danton, Shirley Milham, 5th Doris Cox, Marjorie Sinclair, 6th Alan Scholes, Audrey Selby, 7th Fraya Turner, Col. John Buckeridge, 9th Frank Ridley