

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Fourth Sunday of Easter
8 May 2022

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God!

For the first time in a generation global poverty is rising. Climate change, Covid and the war in Ukraine are pushing more and more people into a struggle for survival. As our planet changes and weather extremes increase, it is the poorer countries that feel the effects the most. One of the countries on the frontline of this crisis is Zimbabwe, where, in rural areas, seven out of ten women rely on farming to earn a living and provide for their families. The war in Ukraine will drive up food prices even more. Without fertiliser and food such as wheat and cooking oil that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed even deeper into hunger. So far Christian Aid has helped over 27,000 people in Zimbabwe, but there is still more to do.

Please support the work of Christian Aid, and come and enjoy bacon butties and croissants next Sunday between 8.30-9.30 in the Old School. With every gift, every action, every prayer, we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe.

Jane & Brian.

Please check the church website for more details
www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Fourth Sunday of Easter (8 May 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Charles Solomon

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

Readers: Eileen & Jim Knight; Intercessor: Tony Lawrence

6.00 Choral Evensong *(in church and online)*

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *Readings: Acts 12: 24-13: 5; John 12: 44-end*

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *Readings: Acts 13: 13-25; John 13: 16-20*

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) *Readings: Third Sunday after Easter*

Next Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Easter (15 May 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church and online)*

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

The Collect for Fourth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one
flock, to the glory of God the Father.
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:

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ
to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us
to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace
to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Acts 9: 36-end

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Revelation 7: 9-end

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.' Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

John 10: 22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

A thought John 10. 22-30

Jesus begins what is known as the Good Shepherd discourse by describing the relationship between the sheep and the shepherd: God knows them by name, and they recognize God's voice. The relationship is direct and personal. By laying claim to the role of the Good Shepherd, Jesus is claiming for himself a position reserved for God alone as becomes evident from the section of the Gospel we hear in today's readings. The crowd demands that Jesus answer them clearly whether or not he is the Christ, the Messiah.

Jesus further angers them by telling them that they really ought to have discovered that for themselves when they had heard him teaching and when he had done mighty signs before their eyes, but they had not listened or seen because they were not God's sheep. He appears to rile them even more by pressing the question further. He declares, "The Father and I are one." It was a remarkable statement, and it provoked a dramatic response, the crowd took stones in order to kill Jesus.

Many who first heard Jesus' claims to be one with God demanded evidence, signs that would demonstrate the truth of what he said. They wanted proof. Jesus gave them an answer when he declared, "I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own, and my own know me...and I lay down my life for the sheep... No one takes it from me; but I lay it down of my own accord, and I have power to take it up again."

The proof that Jesus gives that he is the Good Shepherd is his loving self-sacrifice for the people of God and the power of his resurrection. Put another way, Good Friday and Easter Morning are the proof that Jesus of Nazareth is who he says he is.

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), Paul Simpson,, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Ralph Wilkins, Martin Simmonds, Pete Ewing

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Christopher, 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, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Patricia Buckeridge, Tim Burrows

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 8th Wyn Capelin, Peg Goddard, Peggy Shortt, Thomas Coke, 9th John Randtoul, 10th Muriel Robinson, Alice Glenister, Susan Hoad, Michael Sparshott, 11th George Anderson, Kathleen Bentley, Terence Darling, 12th Ronald Bailey, Ellen Harford, 13th Robert Brinley Codd, 14th Robert Aspinall, Dan Batchelor, Cyril Dixon