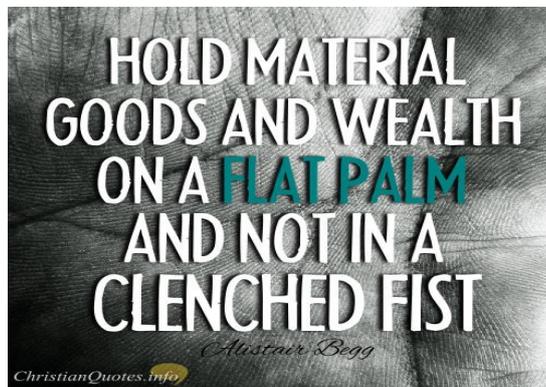


HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Seventh Sunday after Trinity
31st July 2022



Sunday's readings are among several to be found in the Bible regarding the right attitude towards wealth and possessions. We live in a world of plenty, and have been entrusted to share all that God has provided. Our readings remind us that earthly treasures will not last forever; we should live generously and focus on having a right relationship with God rather than fretting over material possessions, all of which are mere vanities.

Rosemary Freeney Harding (1930-2004), an American spiritual leader in the Black Freedom Movement of the 1960s, had this to say,

"There is no scarcity. There is no shortage. No lack of love, of compassion, of joy in the world. There is enough.

There is more than enough.

Only fear and greed make us think otherwise.

No one need starve. There is enough land and enough food.

No one need die of thirst. There is enough water. No one need live without mercy. There is no end to grace. And we are all instruments of grace. The more we give it, the more we share it, the more we use it, the more God makes. There is no scarcity of love. There is plenty. And always more."

Jane & Brian

Seventh Sunday after Trinity (31 July 2022)

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

8.00 Holy Communion (in church) Reader: Graham Johnson

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (in church and online)

11.15 Pet Service

Readers: Eileen & Jim Knight; Intercessor: Mark Parker

Hymns: 1 (Part 1 & Dox), 57, 683, 747, 634

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion Readings: Jeremiah 31: 1-7; Matthew 15: 21-28

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic)

Readings: Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Matthew 16: 13-23

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Cancelled during August

Next Sunday: Eighth Sunday after Trinity (7th August 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 Parish Eucharist (in church and online)

11.15 Family Praise

The Collect for Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Generous God,
you give us gifts and make them grow:
though our faith is small as mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through 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 God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may live:
may we so receive within ourselves
the power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup,
we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14; 2: 18-23

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labours under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Colossians 3: 1-11

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Luke 12: 13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

A thought 7th Sunday after Trinity: Luke 12. 13-21 (Sunday 31st)

In our gospel story we find Jesus face to face with someone who missed the point. Jesus was teaching the people and sharing the story of God's love and real presence in their lives. There is one person in the crowd who is too distracted by possessions to see and hear Jesus. He came to Jesus because one of his brothers was not sharing an inheritance and he knew that some portion was rightfully his.

Although Jesus, the Saviour of the world, was standing right there next to him, this person was missing the whole point because he was measuring his life in possessions. He missed the most important part of the story. And Jesus said to him, "Take care, be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions!" And then, Jesus told the whole crowd a parable, a story about a rich man who measured the value of his life only by what he had. He, too, had missed the point.

The point of all of the stories this morning is to emphasize first and foremost that life, and all that we have, is a gift from God. Jesus doesn't want us unnecessarily to do away with all our possessions. However, we must not define ourselves by them, be obsessed with them, nor should we reduce life to what can be bought and sold. As Jesus tells us where our heart is there is our treasure.

A prayer for this time of vacancy

Send us your Holy Spirit at this time of change and uncertainty, to fill us with vision, energy and faithfulness in prayer that we may be true to our calling to bring new life to our community; and guide with your heavenly wisdom those who are to choose a new priest for this Benefice, so that the one whom we receive may be a wise and gentle shepherd of your people, ready to serve us with joy, to build us up in faith, and to lead us by example, in loving obedience to your Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: John Bernardi (priest), Paul Simpson, Martin Packham, Val Thompson, Ralph Wilkins, Martin Simmonds, Becky Parker, George Snashall,

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Joshua and Reggie, Wendy, Ann Went, Julie Sadler, Christopher, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark, Carla Spear, Pam Sagar, Eileen Knight, Maureen Griffiths, Carol Cox, Liz Graydon

Those in Care Homes: Alan Prebble, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Reginald Saunders, Margaret Stace, Keith Thompson, Michael Thomas

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 31st Kenneth Viles, Francis Grainger, Graham Hardwick, Peter Anderson, 2nd, David Revill, Kenneth Keymer, Dorothy Young, 3rd Steve Dant, Margaret Henley, Helen Heap, 4th Michael Symonds, Marjory Norris, 5th John Lewis, Susan Cooke, 6th Marjorie Dewey, Bessie Bliss