

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
The Eighth Sunday after Trinity
7th August 2022

Jesus says to us, 'Do not be afraid, little flock.'

Dear Friends

It is August and time for those summer holidays. Many people will be going on a journey, travelling to a far away location, enjoying the sunshine, the wonders of nature, or experiencing a different way of life, before returning home.

The Old Testament has several stories about the Israelites travelling to the promised land at various stages in their history, such as those of Abraham and Moses. Perhaps these journeys can be helpfully seen now as an analogy for life's journey from egocentric child to a life lived in the embrace of the love of God. There is one important difference, however, between this journey and our annual summer travels. Home is our destination, the promised land, rather than a place to which to return.

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

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity (7 August 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Readers: Gerry Larnar & Anthony Van der Willigen

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

Readers: Kate Berry & Isobel Simmonds; Intercessor: Clive Simmonds

Hymns: 7, 790, 422, 729, 788, 827

11.15 Family Praise

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *(in church & online)*

Readings: Ezekiel 9: 1-7,10,18-22; Matthew 18: 15-20

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion *(Iona/Celtic)*

Readings: Ezekiel 12: 1-12; Matthew 18: 21-19:1

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

Next Sunday: The Ninth Sunday after Trinity (14 August 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 Trinity 8

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching
and fellowship, united in prayer
and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy
and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Genesis 15: 1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.'

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them.

They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 12: 32-40

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

A thought 8th Sunday after Trinity: 7th August 2022

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32

This short statement from Jesus reveals three things to us.

First of all, we hear Jesus offer the familiar reminder that we ought not allow fear to take hold of our lives. There are so many things in life that can have the effect of causing fear, worry, anxiety and the like. Overcoming fear is a matter of humility, in that humility enables us to turn our eyes from ourselves and the problems we face and to put our eyes upon our Lord. When we put our eyes on Him, fear dissipates, and trust takes its place.

Second, this is also a very tender statement from Jesus in that He calls His disciples, and all of us, His "little flock." This is a term of endearment and reveals our Lord's gentle and compassionate heart. This term of endearment reveals not only that we belong to Jesus, but it also reveals how His love for us is intimate and heartfelt. If we understand this love of His, we will be compelled to love Him back with the same depth of intimacy.

Lastly, this line points us to the Kingdom of our Father in Heaven. The Father, whom we must trust and with whom we must have an intimate relationship, invites us to share in His most glorious Kingdom. His Kingdom becomes ours, and when we can see and understand how glorious this calling is, we will be filled with hope and excitement as we seek to obtain it.

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, Eileen Macdougall

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: Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card

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

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 7th David Covell, Richard Bostock, Reginald Cracknell, 8th Frederick Baker, 10th Guy Nicholson, Aileen Craigen, Linda Duffy, 11th Sheila Emmens, Winifred Stevens, 12th Alexander Wallace, 13th Richard Taylor, Olive Stenning, Catherine Thurgood, Diane Ede