

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

Palm Sunday

2 April 2023

With Palm Sunday we start on the final lap of our journey to Easter through Holy Week. And as at his birth, so for his Passion he arrives on a donkey, to much jubilation at first, which will turn to abuse and hatred as the week progresses. There are many key moments in our journey: the entry into Jerusalem, the teaching in the temple, the giving of the new commandment, the washing of the disciples' feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the agony in the garden, the arrest, and subsequent trials, leading to his crucifixion and death. And there are the side stories, the betrayal of Judas, Peter's denial and the sword piercing Mary's heart as she stands at the foot of the cross. Join us during Holy Week as we journey to Easter.

Brian & Jane

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Palm Sunday (2 April 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

Readers: Gerry Larner & Anthony Van der Willigen

9.45 Parish Eucharist (in church & online)

Reader: Wendy Bloomer; Intercessor: Mark Parker

Hymns: 159, 161, 153, 763, 639, 147 (omit * verses)

11.15 Family Praise

6.00 The Cross of Christ (in church & online)

Services during the week:

Monday: 6.00 Holy Communion (C. worship)

Readings: Isaiah 42: 1-9; Hebrews 9: 11-15; John 12: 1-11

Tuesday: 6.00 Holy Communion (C. Worship)

Readings: Isaiah 49: 1-7; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-31; Joyhn 12: 20-26

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

6.00 Holy Communion (C. Worship)

Readings: Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Hebrews 12: 1-3; John 13: 21-32

Thursday: 8.00 Sung Eucharist (in church & online) Watch until 10pm

Readings: Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14; I Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Friday: 10.00 Family Service for Good Friday

12.00 Good Friday Devotions

2.00 Liturgy for Good Friday

Saturday 8.00 Easter Vigil (in church & online)

Readings: Genesis 1: 1-2: 4a; Exodus 14: 10-end, 15: 20-21; Ezekiel 36: 24-28; Romans 6: 3-11; Matthew 28:1-10

Next Sunday: Easter Day (9 April 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 Parish Eucharist (in church & online)

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

The Collect Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ you Son 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 humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant, and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation: give us the mind to follow you and to proclaim you as Lord and King, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backwards. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Philippians 2: 5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

Matthew 27: 11-54

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son." ' The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

A thought: Palm Sunday 2nd April 2023

One of the benefits of our Holy Week services is that they pull out big moments in the story of our redemption, we draw near to them, learn about them, live them, identify with them, sit with them.

On Thursday, we will sit in the moments of Gethsemane. We will sit in the times, like the disciples, that we simply can't stay attuned and attentive to God at work in our midst. We will sit through the betrayal of Christ that we see – and participate in – in the world around us.

On Friday, we will sit in the moment of death. How has our experience of death changed since we last heard the story? What grief do we bring to the execution of our Saviour, the martyrdom of our Messiah, the murder at the hands of the authorities, claiming law and order?

When we celebrate the Eucharist together, we'll hear the familiar words "Take, eat; this is my body," and "Drink from it, all of you, this is my blood." When we hear these words in this story, the Passion, it's a reminder that Jesus shared the cup and the bread with everyone at his table—including the one he knew would betray him.

Yes, the "Last Supper," in which Jesus shares the bread and wine as his body and blood, happens after he discloses the knowledge that he will be betrayed by one at this very table. It lends a new significance to making room at the table, to sharing our gifts with everyone.

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: Paul Simpson, Martin Packham, Becky Parker, Eileen Caple, Karen Leese, Jim Knight, Peter Graydon, Val Thompson

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

Those in Care Homes: Mary Watts, Ruth Baker,, Rosemary Pardey, Janet Card

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Michael Day

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 2nd William Moore, 3rd Robert Bryson, Bruce Spencer, Bernard Watts, Arthur Goad, Patricia Buckeridge, 4th Mark Danton, Shirley Milham, 5th Doris Cox, Marjorie Sinclair, 6th Alan Scholes, Audrey Selby, 7th Fraya Turner, Col. John Buckeridge