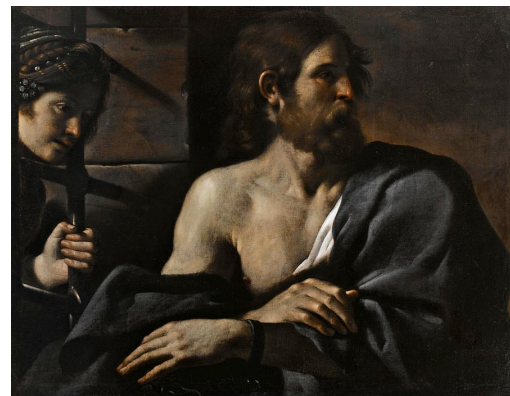


HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Sixth Sunday after Trinity
11 July 2021

You were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit

*Saint John the Baptist in Prison visited by Salome by Guercino
(National Gallery of Ireland)*

My dear friends,

The gruesome account of the death of John the Baptist is not some far off account about life in Biblical times. It is an experience for here and now. Every single day Christians will be put to death for their faith in Jesus Christ or coerced in forcible conversion to other faiths. John the Baptist can teach us much about our own Christian journey. He is always the one pointing away from himself to the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.' The Lamb - Jesus - ultimately gives *his* all to bring about the possibility of Resurrection Life for each of us, but it is our call to respond.

The opening words of the Letter to the Ephesians give us a sense of the new way in which we are called to look at the world through eyes of faith. In this 'flat-earth' society, people chase after all manner of chimeras to gain satisfaction of spirit. The godless squad pour scorn on faith of any kind and can't accept the 'ambiguities of existence and the ethical weight of wonder,' as quoted by Robert Shortt in his book 'Outgrowing Dawkins.'

John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the answer to life with its twists and turns. So, too, should we.

With love,

Michael

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Sixth Sunday after Trinity (11 July 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)* Reader: Roger Edmonston

9.45 The Parish Eucharist *(in church and online - see website to book)*

Readers: Jane Houghton & Helen Swift; Intercessor: Mark Parker

6.00 Choral Evensong *(in church and online)* Reader: Nickola Smith

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) **John Keble**, Priest, Tractarian, Poet **in church & online**

Readings: Lamentations 3: 19-26; Romans 15: 1-6; Matthew 5: 1-8

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) **Swithun**, Bishop of Winchester **online only**

Readings: Proverbs 3: 1-8; James 5: 7-18; Matthew 5: 43-48

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Sixth Sunday after Trinity **online only**

Next Sunday: Seventh Sunday after Trinity (18th July 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church and online - see website to book)*

3.00 Pets Service *(outdoors if fine - all creatures under control welcome!)*

All services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website before services, entering a waiting 'area' before joining everyone.

The Collect for Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
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:

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Amos 7: 7-15

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said, 'See, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.' Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.' ' And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.' Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

Ephesians 1: 3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory

Mark 6: 14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the baptizer.' Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.' The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

A thought

No wonder St John Chrysostom wrote of Salome's dance – 'O diabolical revel! O satanic spectacle! O lawless dancing! For a murder more impious than all murders was perpetrated, and he that was worthy to be crowned and publicly honoured was slain in prison and the trophy of the devils was set on the table.' What an example to us are all of those modern day John the Baptists who are persecuted or murdered for their faith in Jesus. On the very day you read this women, men and children will die because they love the Lord. Think of their own journeys and the fact that they too will know in their hearts that John the Baptist points to the Beloved - the Lamb of God who truly takes away the sin of the world. And he gives himself in absolute love for each one of us – a love that we are called to reveal in all that we do.

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, Wendy Boys, Carla Spear, Wendy Hibling, Justine, Sheila Mitchell, John Bernardi (priest), Kate Malby, Becky Parker, Jenny Burke, Keith Thompson

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Anne Greenhill, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Julie Sadler, Mark Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Janet Card, Yvonne Godsmark, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, **Those in Care Homes:** Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Rodney

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 11th Selina Gray, 12th Margaret Willcocks, Robert Hickman, 13th Samuel Dods, Billy, Edward Wardle, 14th Dulcie Tidey, Jean Hammond, 15th Gladys Cranefield, 16th Frank Knight, 17th Sally Mitchell