

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news The Fifth Sunday of Easter 15 May 2022

Dear Friends

This week is Christian Aid Week and locally we will be giving a focus to this through the Big Brekkie on Sunday morning, surely one way of fulfilling Our Lord's command in the Gospel that we love one another. Of course, we are also told to love our enemies, something that I suspect many of us are finding a challenge at the present time. Next Sunday we will be holding our Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 11.30, after the morning service. Do come and take part in the running of the parish, particularly at this time when we are without a vicar. We can report that the PCC, acting jointly with the PCC for Bolney, have now completed the legal steps necessary before the vacancy can be filled.

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

Please check the church website for more details

www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Fifth Sunday of Easter (15 May 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)* Readers: Margaret Thistlethwaite & Ralph Colbran

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

Readers: Vicky Peattie & Carolyn Ponder;

Hymns: 199, 667, 566, 484

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) Readings: Acts 15: 1-6; John 15: 1-8

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Readings: Acts 15: 7-21; John 15: 9-11

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

Next Sunday: Sixth Sunday of Easter (22 May 2022)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

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

11.30 APCM *(in The Old School)*

1.00 Holy Baptism

6.00 Sung Evensong *(in church)*

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

The Collect for Fifth Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
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:

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ
is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen

Acts 11: 1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

Revelation 21: 1-6

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

John 13: 31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

A thought John 13. 31-35

Jesus knew the end was close when Judas left the Last Supper to go and betray Him. It's important to put this situation within the context that Jesus understood it. From a purely human point of view, one of Jesus' closest friends was about to betray Him for money. For most of us this would have been devastating and the cause for anger and hurt.

But because Jesus knew the end of the story, He was able to see Judas' betrayal as the means to His glorification, not His defeat. He turned His eyes toward his heavenly Father and all that He would accomplish through His suffering rather than look at the immediate pain He would soon endure.

This is a powerful lesson for us all. First, it's essential that we look at Jesus' glorification through His betrayal, suffering and death. But we must also strive to see the potential that our own sufferings have when united to the Saviour of the World.

How do we react when another person sins against us? How would we have reacted to Judas betraying our love? This is a very difficult question to face in honesty and it is even harder to live the response that Jesus lived. The truth is that every time we are mistreated by another, we are given an opportunity to glorify God and further the Kingdom of Heaven by forgiving, uniting our suffering with Christ's, and offering mercy. This is much easier to speak about than to live. But as always Jesus bring new life to a difficult and dark situation. He gives us a 'New Commandment'. He says that Love should be the perfect identity of every Christian. True Christian love does not ask "what is in there for me" but asks "what more can I do for you."

**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: Tim Burrows, Marilyn Elliott, Patricia Ahern

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 15th Peter Grimwade, Donovan Thornton, Frances Barrett, 16th Robert Goldsmith, 18th Christina Watling, 19th Mary Baker, Eleanor Kingdon, 20th Ethel Carter, Raymond Marchant, 21st Olive Martin, Pauline Wallace