

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Third Sunday of Easter
23 April 2023

In Sunday's gospel reading we hear the familiar story of the travellers on the road to Emmaus. The two men, who had been followers of Jesus, were confused and deeply disappointed by the events in Jerusalem. All hope had been destroyed by the brutal crucifixion of the one whom they believed to be the promised saviour of Israel. They were afraid for themselves and for the future and nothing made sense any more.

As the travellers left Jerusalem, Christ walked beside them, broke bread with them and opened their hearts and minds in a way that was so overwhelming that the world seemed a totally different place and they returned to Jerusalem full of hope and joy to spread the good news.

Many of us today are on our own Emmaus roads. We look with horror and despair at the world around us; the wars, the terrorist atrocities, the homeless on our streets, and wonder where is Christ in all this? Luke's account reminds us that Christ walks beside us in the most ordinary of places and brings hope and light to the most desperate of situations, allowing us to see life in all its fullness. Only then are we able to make sense of the world and have the eyes to see him in everything and everyone.

Jane & Brian

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Third Sunday of Easter (23 April 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Eileen Caple & Roger Edmonston

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Hymns: 199, sheet, 206, 598, 667

12.00 Holy Baptism Juniper Grace Fulford-Ife and Arthur Hugh Eustace

6.00 Sung Evensong

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Acts 8: 1b-8; John 6: 35-40

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

Readings: Acts 8: 26-end; John 6: 44-51

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Third Sunday of Easter *(in church)*

Saturday: 11.00 Wedding Blessing & Baptism Service

Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Easter (30 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 Third Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your 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:

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Amen.

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

1 Peter 1: 17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Luke 24: 13-25

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

A thought: 3rd Sunday of Easter 23rd April 2023

In worship, we experience both examples from today's gospel account of reliving the resurrected Jesus. Both are critically important – Word and Sacrament – as we recall who and what we are as followers of Christ no less than the two people on the road to Emmaus.

The church recognizes this in setting the Eucharist into two equal parts "The Ministry of the Word" and "The Ministry of the Eucharist." The font size for each of those two titles is the same in the book, reveals the fact that each is equally important and equally necessary for our spiritual health. We hear the scriptures and experience them interpreted for us. This sets a specific, weekly context for the communion in which we recall Jesus instituting the special meal, meant for each of us.

With the word of God still resonating in our minds, drawing out the meaningful contexts of our lives, we reach the Altar and literally experience the reality of love and grace and the one-ness we have with God and each another. Everything is focused on the love that is God – that is the resurrected Jesus in our presence. Everything is as it should be as we recall in peace the moment that expresses all the values of God.

This experience regularly re-empowers us to walk with the resurrected Jesus throughout the rest of the week.

Again and again, we recall that we are the body of Christ – and so in our lives, in our actions and in our words, we can reach others, helping them understand the presence of the resurrected Jesus.

Can we become like them? Will our hearts, too, burn with the desire to use the power of the resurrected Jesus? Will we use this burning as a light to recognize that God loves us? Will we use this burning to empower us to reveal God's love to others, continuing his ministry through our acts of compassion and caring to help heal a broken world?

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, Nick Rowe, Tina Owens

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,, Eileen Macdougall, George Snashall

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Patricia Knight, Val Thompson, Jeremy Cutler
In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 23rd Bob Salter, Alfred White, Nicholas Bugden, 24th Marjorie Salter, Ian Nicholson, 25th Mark Walklin, Leslie Holt, John Humphrey, 26th Charles & Oliver Woodcock, Dr. Timothy Carter, 27th Violet Wachett, Edith Packham, Michael Gerrish, 28th Barbara Cheal, Trevor Penfold, Edith Gathercole, Olive Lyall, Jean Smith, 29th Raymond Hookham, Patrick Toseland, Jonathan Cavender