

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Third Sunday after Trinity
25 June 2023

You are worth more than many sparrows

When we consider the number people who live in the world it can be hard to imagine that we are significant in any way, shape or form, but Jesus tells us that even little sparrows don't go unnoticed when they fall to the ground and we are worth many sparrows.

We too have a tendency to fall, either as a result of our own actions or as victims of things beyond our control such as war, disease or natural disaster. During these times we may feel helpless and abandoned, but we are not forgotten by God and our worth not diminished. Our modern way of life may lead us to believe that worth is measured by power, wealth or status, but that is not the way God sees us. Jesus reassures us that even the hairs on our head are numbered and that every part of us is deeply loved and supremely precious in the sight of God.

Jane and Brian

Church website: www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Third Sunday after Trinity (25 June 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

Reader: Roger Edmonston

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

Reader: Wendy Bloomer; Intercessor: Tony Lawrence

Hymns: 4, 335, 503, 462, 358, 490; Choir Anthem Lead me Lord (Wesley); Voluntary Tuba Tune (C.S. Lang)

Services during the week:

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

Readings: Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18; Matthew 7: 15-20

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) Peter & Paul Apostles *(in church)*

Readings: Acts 12: 1-11; 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18; Matthew 16: 13-19

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

Next Sunday: Fourth after Trinity (2 July 2023)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Parish Eucharist *(in church & online)*

11.15 Family Praise

6.00 Sung Evensong *(in church & online)*

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

The Collect for Third Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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:

○ God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Jeremiah 20: 7-13

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, 'Violence and destruction!' For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name', then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: 'Terror is all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. 'Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him.'

But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten.

O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the

Romans 6: 1b-11

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10: 24-39

'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,

and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

A thought: 3rd Sunday after Trinity 25th June 2023

In today's Gospel, Jesus prepares His followers for their first mission apart from him. They are to demonstrate God's Kingdom, bringing healing, wholeness, truth-telling, and repairing relationships. Jesus' speech before sending them to minister is only one moment in their character formation, one moment in learning what it means to follow Him. This is called discipleship.

Jesus showed the twelve that they were children of God and were capable, aligned with God's grace, of healing others, reconciling communities, and holding onto that truth even when it gets tough by remembering Jesus' character, faithfulness, and goodness.

It took years of hanging out with Jesus, eating with him, watching him heal others, listening to his teachings, and overhearing his prayers for them to become the kind of men and women ready to carry out His mission. We also have the same call and vocation as those first disciples.

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, Karen Leese, Jim Knight, Jill Knight, Nickola Smith

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, Tina Owens, Peter Graydon,

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

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Harvey Meares, Angela Perfect, Mary Todd, Don Cranefield, Andrew Lyall

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 26th Alan Fellows, Alastair Murray, 27th Constance Salter, James Perkins, Frederick Gray, 28th Angela Titheradge, Robert Mumbray, 29th Norah Cooper, Jonathan Malins, 30th Joyce Forest, Frances Carter, Leslie Bousell, Evelyn Rhodes, 1st Anna Titlow, Florence Parker, Raymond Smith