Dear friend
I am pleased to enclose today's service, prepared by Judith with a Reflection by Preb Jan.

If you would like to take part in Monday at 9 tomorrow, and you are not on the regular list, please contact Sally Davis, who is hosting it while Martin is on holiday.

If you have a favourite hymn, worship song or piece of choral music you would like to share, please contact me (chrislovell@doctors.org.uk); if you know of a specific YouTube clip, all the better! It's nice to receive requests for our weekly playlist, and good to have a balance of different types of music.

For our opening hymn, Jeannette has chosen 'It is well with my soul', which she has found to be a source of strength over the past few difficult months. As she says, the story of its creation is a tragic one; it is reminiscent of the story of Job. Horatio Spafford was a successful Chicago lawyer who was actively involved in the abolition of the slave trade and other social reforms. He invested much of his considerable fortune in real estate near the city, but lost it all in the Chicago fire in 1871. His wife, Anna, had poor health and he arranged for her and their four daughters to visit Europe on the luxury liner SS Ville de Havre. The ship collided with another vessel in the Atlantic; all four daughters were killed and Anna was knocked unconscious. She was rescued and landed in Cardiff, sending a telegram to him "Saved alone, what shall I do... children lost...." When Spafford himself travelled to meet Anna, he was inspired to write the words of the hymn as the ship passed near where his daughters had died. Philip Bliss named his hymn tune after the fateful vessel.

The following version is by a pharmacist, Michael Eldridge, who has formed a one - man a cappella quartet, recoding several gospel songs. The words are displayed so you can sing along!

https://youtu.be/ZYrL9ea1XUg

Jan has suggested a thoughtful version by the singer songwriter Matt Redman.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoRecglINIw

Today's service begins with words from Psalms 4 and 5, famously set to music by Samuel Sebastian Wesley. Lead me Lord is here sung, in a slightly modified version, by the choir of The Roman Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of The Angels, Los Angeles; there is the opportunity for a bit of a virtual tour of the building, rebuilt and opened in 2002.

https://youtu.be/XrShiuZP8c4

Another British work, and a personal favourite, is Gerald Finzi's nimble setting of Robert Bridges' poem 'My spirit sang all day', here sung, with enjoyment, by Boston Chamber Choir (keeping an American theme).

https://youtu.be/SEUJpTuPzaQ

Finally, I am grateful to Martin, who sent this link to 'All My Hope', a version from a huge worship event in Australia by Hillsong, a global evangelistic movement attracting millions of young people (and quite a few maturer ones!).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fGRQnRWCjA

Chris

19th July 10am: 6th Sunday after Trinity

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness; make thy way plain before my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only, that makest me to dwell in safety. (*Words from Psalms 4 & 5)*

CONFESSION

We need your healing, merciful God; give us true repentance. Some sins are plain to us; some escape us, some we cannot face. Forgive us; set us free to hear your word to us; set us free to serve you.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. (Ps. 103:8)

COLLECT

Merciful God, who has prepared for those who love you such good things as pass all understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

READINGS Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-end; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

REFLECTION The world is like a field – a field in which Jesus, the Son of Man, has sown good seed. Enter the enemy! Humanity has struggled down through the ages with the assault of temptations. Evil is often indistinguishable from that which is good. It can and does beguile us and it is only as it grows that we learn to recognize it. We can, sometimes, jump in with early judgements which are counter-productive. We may well decide to brand someone without thinking it through. Take, for example, the lively and adventurous people who push for change. Change that we do not like or support. Learning to discern the true nature of evil is important. Evil is both within each of us and outside of us. Looking to Jesus, to his influence, his teachings, his life, and using this as our guide assists us in the discernment process. We need to recall, too, that, thankfully, God offers forgiveness freely to all who truly seek it, even to those we think most certainly don't deserve it.

PRAYERS Dear Lord, as churches begin to open their doors, whether for people to spend time in quiet prayer, or with fellow worshippers in resumed services, help us to use these different, unusual experiences, to find a new peace in your presence.

We pray for your blessing on all our own churches, that community will be strengthened despite the inability to gather normally, and for wisdom for their leaders as they adapt to change.

We ask that, in your mercy, you protect places throughout the world where there is a lack of basic healthcare, or devastation because of conflict or natural disaster. We pray for strength, wisdom and protection for healthcare workers everywhere in the world.

We pray for the sick, the suffering and especially for the bereaved, naming them before you now……
We pray for those who have died; those we love, but see no longer, and those who have died unloved in this world……

Enable us Lord, to be your hands and feet, and to serve our brothers and sisters with the love you have demonstrated to us. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in your favoured version)
WE SHARE THE GRACE

AND FINALLY: **'**All this world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield; wheat and tares together sown – unto joy or sorrow grown. First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear; grant, O Lord of life, that we, holy grain and pure may be'. Amen. *(Henry Alford)*