Dear Friends

I am pleased to enclose this Sunday's service, prepared by Judith with reflection by Preb Jan.

There are surprisingly few hymns that reflect on the gospel reading, but the talented Michael Aldridge comes to the rescue with his a cappella version of the worship song, ‘Break thou the bread of life’.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQpj4TSe-Ec

And for a good sing, mentioning bread of heaven, there is always, ‘Guide me O thou great redeemer’ (Cwm Rhondda), sung by a Welsh male voice choir, of course!

https://youtu.be/y3NmfmVGblw

Among Martin’s suggestions for worship songs, the following clip by British singer songwriter Matt Redman echoes the sentiment of the beginning of psalm 145.

https://youtu.be/PnWKehsOXu8

For a choral version of Psalm 156 vv 15 and 16 here is, ‘The eyes of all wait upon thee’, set by Jean Berger. This neglected 20th Century composer was born as Arthur Schlossberg to a Jewish family in Austria. While conducting an opera rehearsal in Mannheim in the 1930s he was kicked out by the Nazi Brown Shirts. He later fled to France, changing his name to Jean Berger. He later moved to Brazil and eventually USA. This is one of his slightly better-known pieces, with some rather nice scrunchy harmonies.

https://youtu.be/37gcgj0H61w

George Odam has suggested this splendid setting by Gustav Holst of the old Genevan psalm tune, ‘Turn back, O man’. He and Penny sang this in their school choir during the 1957 Aldeburgh Festival, conducted by Imogen Holst, the composer’s daughter. As he says, the words are even more apt today. Words are provided, so you can sing along!

https://youtu.be/ognt5vDpsBc

Happy listening/singing!

Chris

August 2nd 2020 10am
8th Sunday after Trinity
'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' *Matthew 5 v.6*

CONFESSION God our Father, we belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry. Father, in your mercy: forgive us and help us.
Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4.32)

COLLECT Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper, save us from pride, when we are needy, save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

READINGS Psalm 145.8-9,15-end; Isaiah 55. 1-5; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14. 13-21

REFLECTION John the Baptizer has been brutally beheaded. It is a time of turmoil. Jesus is full of grief and worn out realizing, perhaps how dangerous his own mission is. What should he do now? Jesus gets into a boat and drifts out on to the lake. He's seeking calm and craving peace, needing to hear the voice of God. As he reaches the far shore there they are, just what he doesn't need. A huge crowd is waiting wanting to be near him and hear his words. This is what God needs of him; to continue to meet the needs of the people. As he finishes speaking he sees how tired and hungry those people are. He gives his disciples an impossible task saying, 'You give them something to eat.' What, feed all those people? All Jesus asks for, though, is one small response. It comes – five loaves and two fish. Jesus will take care of the rest. Once more Jesus shows us the wild generosity of God, as all are fed. One small response. It can be enough for God. Instead of feeling overwhelmed by what to do in a world beset by so many challenges, listen as God tells us to get on with it. Oh yes, and remember that one small response can and does grow!

PRAYERS *A moment of silence…*……
Lord, help me to respond to your call with everything that I am and everything that I have. Let me hold nothing back in response to your great love for me. *(Rachel Parkinson)*

A prayer for these times, from Tearfund: Father God, thank you for the gift of relationship and community - We pray that this time of pandemic will bring people together - For those who are anxious, bring peace, for those who are sick, bring healing -For those caring for others, bring strength - For those who are lonely, bring comfort. Help us to recognise and to reach out to anyone in need in whatever way we can. We pray that these times will bring about renewed trust in your goodness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We spend a few quiet moments bringing before you those for whose needs we are praying at this time.....

Lord, we praise you for every single act of good that is done, for every ounce of love that is shown, for every kind deed, act of grace and act of mercy. Amen. *(Jamie Prouse)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER *in your favoured version*

WE SHARE THE GRACE

A FINAL PRAYER
Be present at our table, Lord,
Be here and everywhere adored.
Thy people bless, and grant that we
May feast in paradise with thee. Amen
(John Wesley)

