Greetings!

I am pleased to enclose this Sunday's service on the theme of St Peter. Thanks to Preb Jan for the reflection.

St Peter's day actually falls on Monday and Monday at 9 will be a special celebration of Eucharist by Zoom. if you would like to participate, please contact Martin Ward (mward0079@gmail.com) before Sunday evening, so he can send the link and details.

Today's hymn by John Bell of the Iona community is on the theme of discipleship

Will you come and follow me?

https://youtu.be/liUlxlaCRT0

Martin has unearthed a nice a cappella version of Chris Tomlin's worship song "Indescribable" by One Sound Music

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLBIeGB4ZJc

Probably the most well-known setting of Tu es Petrus (You are the rock...) is Palestrina's, where all the singers come together in a joyous "Claves" (keys of heaven)

Palestrina Tu es Petrus

https://youtu.be/5YfpvzAYaxc

Maurice Durufle set the same words, based on the Gregorian chant

https://youtu.be/59ppvRFMnOI

Finally, you may like to take a quiet moment of reflection to the accompaniment of lapping waves and bird calls of the Sea of Galilee

https://youtu.be/Rl1ECX2EG-4

Enjoy!
Chris

Service for St Peter's Day.

You wake us to delight in your praises; for you made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they repose in you. *St Augustine*.

CONFESSION. Forgive us, Lord, when we fail you, when we deny you by our words and deeds, when we rush in with hasty words without thinking of the consequences.
Christ also suffered for once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring (us) to God. (1 Peter 3.18a)

COLLECT. Almighty God, who inspired your apostle Saint Peter to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God; build up your Church upon this rock, that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, *Amen*.

READINGS Psalm 125, Acts 12**.** 1-11, 1Pet 2. 19-end, Matt.16.13-19.

REFLECTION " But who do you say that I am?" In answer to Jesus' question, Simon Peter blurts out, "You are the Messiah." Blurts? Just a feeling, as Simon Peter often enthusiastically responds to Jesus and not always in the right way. He panics when he attempts to meet Jesus on the waters of Lake Galilee. He's rather too vocal when Jesus talks of how he, Jesus, will suffer. He can't stay awake in Gethsemane, denies even knowing Jesus and is nowhere to be seen during the crucifixion. And yet, as Peter makes that historic statement, "You are the Messiah", Jesus affirms Peter's place in the battle against evil and the building of the Kingdom. Simon is renamed Peter (Petra in the Greek) meaning rock. Rock? Peter certainly seems rocky. He speaks without thinking and fails spectacularly. However, Jesus can see Peter's potential, perceiving this fisherman as the rock on which to build the Christian Community. Peter can and will meet the challenge based on his knowledge of who Jesus is. It is the same for us. When we know Jesus, when we have a personal relationship with him, however wobbly it may feel, he can continue to build his Church in and through us. Amen to that!

PRAYERS.
O God, who has given unto Thy blessed Apostle Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven, and the power to bind and loose: grant that we may be delivered, through the help of this intercession, from the slavery of all our sins: Who lives and reigns world without end. Amen. (*www.daily prayers.org*)

We pray for your church here on earth, that we may be courageous in proclaiming your word and generous in reflecting your love to others.

We pray for the nations of this world, for people in resource-poor areas who face the additional burden of coronavirus, for the nations divided by conflict and unrest. We pray that the leaders of nations may govern with integrity and care for their people.

We pray for the sick in mind, body or spirit, the victims of natural or man – made disaster, those worried about test results or treatments, those facing financial hardship, and uncertainty, those who mourn loved ones. We pray for those dear to us…….

O God, give me, like Peter, the gift of perseverance. If I fail in something the first time, help me to try again, until I succeed. If I find that results are slow to come, give me patience that I may learn to wait. Help me to welcome every difficulty as a challenge and an opportunity for victory, through Jesus Christ my Lord. *(William Barclay, adapted).*

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

FINAL PRAYER
O Lord, in the simplicity of my heart, I offer myself to you today, to be your servant for ever, to obey you, and to be a sacrifice of perpetual praise. *(Thomas à Kempis)*