Dear friend

Today's service has been devised by Judith, with a reflection by Preb Jan.

The hymn, selected by Martin, is "How Great Thou Art", in a version by Celtic music which brings out the folk tradition of the tune. The words were a favourite of a friend of his, who recently died of cancer.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKGf06YM7rQ

Judith has tracked down this expressive recording of an Aria from Handel's Messiah, sung by the black American soprano Adele Addison, now 95, with Bernstein and NY Phil; "Come unto him".

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggg3atbJy90

While on the Messiah, one of my favourite choruses (although easier to whistle than sing!) is "His Yoke is Easy" (based on the gospel text, Matt 11:30), sung with a hop, skip and a jump by Monteverdi choir conducted by John Eliot Gardiner.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Va2tVRUNXCk

Finally, Farmborough choir will be familiar with Bob Chilcott's lyrical setting of the Irish Blessing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PO3j6Hl_-Yw

which reminds me of a recent Private Eye cartoon...



"It seems the wind was at his back and the road rose up to meet him..."

With all good wishes
Chris

Sunday 5th July 10am 4th Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, you are the beginning of all my good, the wellspring of all my love and the source of all my freedom. Let your grace work on in me, that your will may be done through me, and that I may always rejoice in your presence, now and for ever. Amen.
(*Mary Ward, 1585-1645*)

CONFESSION Lord, we are sorry for the times when we have failed to do what we know to be right. Hear our prayer, and in your mercy, forgive us and help us.
May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins and assure us of his eternal love, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus you brought salvation to our wayward world: draw us into harmony with your will, that we may find all things restored in him, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

READINGS Psalm 45:10-end; Romans 7: 15-25a; Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end.

REFLECTION Jesus tells us that his burden is *light.* In these difficult times, many of us feel something of that burden called anxiety with a fear of the unknown. We wonder what life is going to be like. Unfortunately, not all of this matches reality – contradictions pop up and confuse us. Little wonder that it is all too easy to become overwhelmed and feel the cares of the world lying heavy. So what does Jesus mean in saying that his yoke is easy? He's telling us, teaching us that we simply need to be the people that God wants us to be. Wherever we may go, whoever we may be Jesus invites us to place ourselves in his great care. He invites us to let go of the things we carry, and trust in him. To do this we need to come close to Jesus. We need to realize our need for God and to claim Jesus' promise to be alongside us.

'Come to me and I will give you rest.
Come, let me revive you, refresh you and restore you.
Come and learn to be resurrection people.'*
Amen. (**words by David Adam*)

PRAYERS
We pray for the church and for the world. Lord, as places of worship begin to reopen, help us to value the chance to be still and to pray inside buildings which mean so much to so many. Help us, too, to know that your loving Holy Spirit is at large in the world.

We pray for all who are carrying heavy burdens and ask for these to be eased in the light of Jesus' assurance. We continue to pray for the sick and suffering, both those affected by Covid 19 and all others with needs of body, mind or spirit.

We pray for all those whom we love……..
In darkness and in light, in trouble and joy, help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love, to serve your purpose and to praise your name. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER in your favoured version

WE SHARE THE GRACE



FINAL PRAYER Be with us Lord to defend us; within us to refresh us; around us to protect us; before us to guide us; behind us to encourage us and above us to bless us; for your own name's sake. Amen (*Celtic, 10th Century*)