Dear friends,
I enclose Sunday's virtual service, prepared by Judith with the reflection by Preb Jan.

Judith has suggested the hymn, 'King of glory, King of peace', George Herbert's poem set to Gwalchmai, Here it is sung with due pomp and ceremony at a royal occasion:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKVXTMEXbaw

Or, if you prefer to sing along, there is a version with words:
https://youtu.be/z_KENnmPj_o

Today's collect, 'Let thy merciful ears O Lord', was set by the Tudor composer Thomas Mudd (not to be confused with the other Tudor composer called Thomas Mudd…). Singers will find it in the Oxford Book of Tudor anthems. Here it is sung as part of a competition by a young quartet. There are more polished performances (this one goes off the rails at one point) but this one has a freshness and clarity.
https://youtu.be/8XCHOi_ngvY

There have been many settings of Psalm 67. I've chosen a lyrical one by the contemporary composer, Philip Stopford, and a more angular, ebullient setting of a text from it, quoted at the beginning of our service, by the Welsh composer, William Matthias.

'God be merciful unto us', Philip Stopford:
https://youtu.be/-blgOcciHQs

'Let the people praise thee', William Mathias:
https://youtu.be/RW04lkOd9gA

Martin's contribution this week is 'How Great is our God' by Chris Tomlin.

This version is from a huge worship event in Australia by Hillsong, a global evangelistic movement attracting millions of young people. The phrase *How great is our God* is used like a Taizé chant.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FS-AR8peTY

Finally, as we tackle the thorny problem of reopening places of worship safely, I am grateful to Baptist friends, Michael and Pat, who alerted me to the following innovative and imaginative approach by Bethany Pwllgwaun Baptist church, Pontypridd.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fIfItkvCVfA

Happy listening!
Chris

Sunday 16th August 10am; Trinity 10

'Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!'

CONFESSION

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer, this is your world and we are your people: come among us and save us. We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves; Lord, be merciful.

*May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Common Worship*)*

COLLECT

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8; Psalm 67;
Romans 11:1-2a,29-32; Matt. 15: 21-28

REFLECTION

Jesus has been debating what is clean and unclean according to Jewish tradition. The Pharisees and scribes aren't enamoured with the bold definition he gives. They prefer their narrow views that tend to categorize people. As Jesus moves on to the Gentile region of Tyre and Sidon, a Canaanite woman, defying convention, shouts out as she approaches him. How dare she! Jesus appears most unhelpful, to say the least. The woman persists, and this causes Jesus to face the logic of his argument as to what is clean or unclean. A woman, little status there; a Gentile, even less. Jesus surely realizes that to live by the words he speaks means opening his ministry to include Gentiles. He sees and states that this Gentile woman has great faith, and meets her needs. Jesus has gained a fuller understanding of the extent of his ministry. God will not be tied down, for God's extravagant love spills out to all people. Knowing this reminds us that God is always there for us, and tells us, as well, that such Love embraces those who don't share our background, our values or our faith. Something to think on, especially perhaps as we see, during these difficult times, people behaving as we would not!

PRAYERS

Grant, O God, that we may be united to you and to our neighbour with an undivided love; serve you and your children with an undivided heart and worship you and your creation with an undivided will; through Christ our Lord. Amen. (John Scotus Erigena c.810-877)

Lord, we ask you to help us to see beyond our own concerns, and those of our country as we look at the needs of the wider world. We ask for a wise solution to the problems of all those who are escaping ill-treatment, poverty and oppression, wherever they may live.

We pray for all who are sick or in any kind of need, thinking especially of Bishop Peter and his family as he embarks on weeks of intensive treatment.

We pray for ourselves, our families and friends, and take a few quiet moments to bring any special needs before you ……
……

We pray for places in the world whose difficulties are beyond our comprehension, especially Beirut and Yemen, and all areas suffering the coronavirus. Grant peace and hope to their people, we pray and strength to aid agencies and medical personnel.

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

We share **THE GRACE**

FINAL PRAYER *Be to us, O Lord Jesus Christ, the table that is set for all, the light that shines from your saints and the joy prepared for your people; now and for ever. Amen. Symeon the New Theologian, 949-1022)*