Dear friend

I am pleased to enclose this Sunday's virtual service.

Many thanks to Preb Jan for this week's reflection.

Today's hymn is 'Rock of ages', here sung by the Vagle brothers, with lyrics to sing along to.

https://youtu.be/QUU5MSTyoBA

The psalm, Psalm 138, set to a chant by Henry Ley, was sung by Westminster Cathedral choir during a visit by the Pope nine years ago.

https://youtu.be/7N70qEWBbN0

We celebrated the feast of St Peter three weeks ago and included settings of 'Tu es Petrus' by Palestrina and Duruflé. Here is a typically lyrical treatment of the same text by Victoria, sung by Ensemble Plus Ultra; choristers can sing along to the score.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZ4pDIxefv0

Here is a setting by the 19th Century composer Robert Lucas Pearsall, sung (of course) by a Venezuelan choir! Pearsall was a Bristolian, who lived at Willsbridge Manor for several years. He had a passion for madrigals and founded the Bristol Madrigal Society, now the Bristol Chamber Choir. The composer adapted one of his most famous madrigals, 'Lay a Garland', to make this setting of 'Tu es Petrus'.

https://youtu.be/H2IIX1GNvSs

Finally, this week's contribution from Martin, Stuart Townend's justly popular setting of the 23rd psalm.

'The Lord's My Shepherd' - Stuart Townend

The British evangelist teaches us his version of Psalm 23.

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

All good wishes
Chris

Trinity 11
All that matters is to be at one with the living God, to be a creature in the house of the God of life *(from Pax, DH Lawrence).*

CONFESSION. Forgive us when we forget to praise you, when we turn your love into legalism, your freedom into slavery, your promises and gifts into demands and duties. Forgive us when we forget we are your people and we make your church an exclusive club. Forgive us when we forget that Jesus is our contemporary and we lock him up in forms and customs, words and structures. Forgive us, merciful God.
(Methodist church, New Zealand).
The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures for ever.
(Psalm 138 v8)

COLLECT. O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity; mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS. Isaiah 51.1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12.1-8, Matthew 16.13-20.

REFLECTION. Their lives have been turned upside down since their first meeting with Jesus of Nazareth. They find themselves having to re- value the traditional codes of living that are a part of who and what they are. This Jesus unsettles them. How the disciples perceive themselves, perceive others and, indeed, perceive God is challenged. On this occasion the challenge comes in the form of a question: 'Who do *you* say that I am?' They know enough and believe enough about Jesus to have left old lives behind to follow him. Now, Jesus is encouraging them to define what they believe and have discovered. Peter replies, "You are the Messiah, Son of the living God." Peter has realized the deep reality that is there at the centre of Jesus' identity. This, then, is the very foundation on which the Church is built. It's this that we, as followers of Jesus, seek to put at the centre of our lives. Jesus invites us on a journey of discovery, a journey of prayer that leads us to the very heart of God, who truly is the centre of our identity in him.

PRAYERS. Strengthen, Lord, your church here on earth, that each of us may play the unique part that you have given us, as members of one of another, one body in Christ. Guide us in our worship, help us to find new ways to reach out to the wider community.
We pray for the troubled nations of the world, torn apart by political intrigue and warfare. We pray for the people of Belarus, and other areas where there is tension. Grant wisdom and integrity to our leaders.
We bring to your loving mercy those who are suffering, the desolate and lonely, those who are bereaved and the victims of natural and man-made disaster, for the sick, especially for Bishop Peter and others known to us…….
We pray for the schoolchildren who are worried about exam grades and their future. Support their families and teachers and those who counsel and care for them.
We bring before you those with financial worries, the self-employed finding it hard to work and those who face unemployment or who fear eviction.
We give thanks for our communities, for the many acts of selfless love shown during the pandemic. Empower each one of us to serve others, to reflect something of your great love for us.

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

FINAL PRAYER. Disturbing God, you identify with the weak and powerless, and surprise us as we seek to do your will. Help us to find true hope in the now of our action rather than in the distant future of our longing.
(Joy Tetley).