Dear friend
I am pleased to enclose this week's virtual service, prepared by Judith, with a reflection by Preb Jan.

We wish Jan and Nick well as she starts her retirement, giving thanks for her many years of ministry in our Benefice. We look forward to the opportunity to say a proper farewell when possible.

During September, regular services will resume in our churches, but in addition we propose to continue these virtual services.

Judith identified a couple of hymns…

'Take up thy cross' is based on Matt.16v24. It is sung to several different tunes, most often an ironed-out version of Breslau. The following clip retains the rhythmic freedom of the original tune, although recreated electronically. Words are provided to sing along to.

https://youtu.be/Mxw3jRhsVVY

'We love the place, O God is here' sung by the choir of Bishop Heber chapel, Chennai; the hymn reflects on psalm 26 v 8.

https://youtu.be/7f67IVMCD_A

Psalm 26 sung to a chant by York Minster, directed by Philip Moore.

https://youtu.be/BNfAAegzBAc

The Latin text of the first few verses of Psalm 26, Iudica me, set by the renaissance composer Andrea Gabrieli, is sung by I cantori de San Marcos.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_vggLe4MMU

Finally, Jeannette has sent this nice folksy version of Stuart Townend's 'In Christ Alone', by Celtic Worship.

https://youtu.be/8kvFtXphmMU

With all good wishes,
Chris

Sunday 30th August: 10am Trinity 12
Lead us, Lord, to the heart of your kingdom; to a destiny which embraces the cross, to a way in which we lose ourselves, to a mission tongued with fire and to a life which reveals your glory; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
(Toyohiko Kagawa, 1888-1960)

CONFESSION God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins; for failing you by what we do and think and say.
May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
(Common Worship)

COLLECT God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

READINGS Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-end; Matthew 16:21-end
REFLECTION When Jesus, God incarnate, gathers his followers around him, he isn't really understood by them, let alone other people. Peter has received high praise from Jesus in recognizing him as the Messiah but, in a short space of time, Peter is being fiercely rebuked. Peter doesn't understand as he listens to Jesus talking of a suffering Messiah. He begins to tell Jesus off, saying that Jesus has got it wrong. The Messiah is to be triumphant and victorious; the Messiah will vanquish the might of Rome, not be tried, tortured and put to death by it. This fierce response from Jesus points to how tempting it must be for him to take an easier path. Jesus will, though, follow God's way using his (Jesus') power to endure and to love. He tries to explain to his friends why they need to follow this path as well. It is plain that Jesus does not promise a problem-free life. Being Christ-like can be hard but it is the most fulfilling of ways. Look at the world; no-one can get their own way for ever using force. God's way offers a real and lasting life that he yearns for us to choose to be part of. God knows, yes, really knows that we aren't that strong and that we often lack courage. What matters is our willingness to follow Jesus, come what may, knowing that God will help us along the way.

PRAYERS (Take time for silence……)
God who reaches out to us in love, cascading grace to all creation, may we be disciples who respond to your overwhelming, unconditional, unbounded presence……..
Lord, may we, through our daily lives and in our words and actions, try to share that love with everyone we meet in the coming week……
May we respond to your Spirit who calls us to reimagine our communities in the light of your grace……..
Lord, as we move back into our church buildings, we give thanks for the wider worshipping community we have come to appreciate in recent months……..
And may the gospel enliven our spirits to see possibilities, to grasp opportunities and to travel in the way of Jesus……
We pray for all who are in need: for the sick and suffering in body mind or spirit, praying for all who are undergoing treatment in our hospitals and at home. We pray, too, for places in the world where people continue to suffer from hunger, sickness, disaster or persecution……
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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

FINAL PRAYER Grant us, O Lord, the will to accomplish all that pleases you; the strength to do all that you command and the reverence to respect all that you have made; for your own name's sake. Amen (Francis of Assisi).