Dear Friend

Many thanks to Judith for this week's service. She has suggested the following hymn; verse 2 in particular is relevant to the gospel reading; here it is, with the words, to the familiar Welsh tune, ‘For the fruits of his creation’:

https://youtu.be/zbBUFSOkbdM

There are various settings of Psalm 145 but I rather like this Bossa nova-style version of the first few verses by Stan Aoki from Hawaii:

https://youtu.be/ya22reTxBL0

The Tudor composer Orlando Gibbons set part of the psalm, here in a vintage recording by King’s, directed by Boris Ord

https://youtu.be/iK_PUWrE34E

If you fancy a Lego version of the book of Jonah (and why not?), yer tiz. I especially like the brief appearance of the whale/big fish:

https://youtu.be/KOwoJsuGqd8

Finally, from Martin; ‘Build Your Kingdom Here’ - Rend Collective.

A young band cry for God to build His kingdom here on earth and heal our streets and land:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8awpRHg5waw

Best wishes
Chris

Sunday 20th September, Trinity 15

Of your goodness, O God, give me yourself. In all things be my sufficiency. May I ask for nothing more and may I find in you all I want; for in you alone I put my trust, now and for ever. Amen *(Julian of Norwich)*

CONFESSION Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought , word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. *(Common Worship).*

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. (Psalm 103: 8,10)

COLLECT God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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 for ever. Amen.

READINGS Jonah 3:10-end of 4; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-end; Matthew 20:1-16

REFLECTION One of the commonest phrases we hear or say is 'It's not fair!' From the playground to the office, on the sports field, even in church; it's so easy to harbour a sense of injustice or resentment. Matthew, in his gospel, recounts many of the ways in which Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven, and in today's reading, we are asked to imagine it as a vineyard, with God as the generous landowner; over-generous in the eyes of the labourers who have worked five times as hard as the latecomers. The landowner has agreed the daily wage, in accordance with established law; that is clear right from the start, and is easily forgotten by the disgruntled workers who see others getting, in their opinion, too much of the boss's money. *They* don't see it as overflowing generosity, but, Jesus tells his hearers, and us, that God values the 'last' as much as the 'first' – in other words, his fairness ensures that all are welcome in his kingdom, welcome to enjoy the fruits of his boundless love, come early or come late.

PRAYERS Lord, give me a heart that rejoices when others are blessed…I give thanks for your overflowing, generous love, which is free to all in equal measure.

Lord God, bless the labour of our hands, whether in industry or in our kitchen; in farming or in our garden; in an office or on our computer, in a hospital ward or with a sick friend. May all we do be done to your glory, so, Lord, bless the labour of our hands.
(Brian Hudson)

We pray for places in the world where people are in any kind of trouble; for refugees, for the homeless, for the hungry, or the victims of natural disaster……

We pray for the sick in body, mind or spirit, for the lonely, the anxious and the bereaved, naming those we are concerned for at this time, and including our Bishop, Peter…….

We give thanks for days of sunshine during the past week and for the wealth of beauty we can find all around us, wherever we live.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We share **THE GRACE**

A FINAL PRAYER O Lord support us all the day long, until the shades lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us safe

lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(John Henry Newman)