Dear friend
I enclose Sunday's virtual service.

Much of the text of the reading from Philippians 2 is paraphrased in the hymn, ‘At the name of Jesus’. Here it is performed (rather slowly) to the tune ‘Evelyns’, by WH Monk, to give you a chance to have a sing:

https://youtu.be/gNN0FSLwLc8

There are several other tunes, and you may prefer to sing along to this upbeat version of ‘Camberwell’:

https://youtu.be/OI2rKRCWmOU

The theme is also expressed in Graham Kendrick's well-known song, ‘Meekness and Majesty’, introduced and sung here by the man himself with the congregation at a Songs of Praise from Coventry cathedral:

https://youtu.be/gBonpqR7ay0

Gerald Finzi’s setting of ‘Lo, the full final sacrifice’, a setting of words by the metaphysical poet Richard Crashaw, is one of the great choral works of the 20th century, and quite a challenge to singers! It’s rather long, but worth it, and the final ‘amen’ is especially beautiful. Here it is sung by St John’s College choir, Cambridge:

https://youtu.be/e_tCGngwjpQ

Many thanks to Martin for this moving, thought-provoking song ‘Take Me to The Alley’ by Gregory Porter.

The track was written in New York during Pope Francis' visit to New York and imagines where Jesus would first go in the second coming. The lyrics were inspired by the singer's late mother Ruth, who often gave food and shelter to the hungry and homeless:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RP461sWQ6GA

With all good wishes
Chris

Virtual service 27.09.20, Trinity 16.

May the mind of Christ, my Saviour, live in me from day to day, by his love and power controlling all I do and say. *(Kate B Wilkinson)*

CONFESSION. I am heartily sorry, and beg pardon for my sins, especially for my little respect, and for wandering in my thoughts when in your presence, and for my continual infidelitys to your graces; for which I beg pardon, by the merits of the Blood you shed for them. *(Lady Lucy Herbert [1669-1744])*. *Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way (Psalm 25 vv 8,9).*

COLLECT.O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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. Ezekiel 18.1-4, 25-end. Psalm 25.1-9. Philippians 2.1-13, Matthew 21.23-32.

REFLECTION. St. Paul wrote his letter to the Christians at Philippi whilst languishing in a Roman prison, facing a possible death sentence. Despite this, and despite tensions in the young church, this letter is infused with joy and love for his readers. Much of today's epistle reading is an ancient hymn, paraphrased in the hymn "At the name of Jesus". It describes how Jesus voluntarily surrendered his "equality with God" to suffer degradation and death as a common criminal. The word "therefore" implies that his exaltation is the direct result of this; his humility, his self-emptying, leads to glory. Paul's instruction that they/we should "work out their/our own salvation" may seem at odds with his teaching that God's grace is freely given. However, our "working out" is the natural response to receiving this gift. The word "humility" means being of the earth. When we are grounded, when we focus least on ourselves, when we can empty our minds of clutter, God's Holy Spirit has the greatest opportunity to flow through us.

PRAYERS. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory *(from General Confession, BCP)*.

We pray for your church here on earth; heal our divisions, that we may work together to proclaim your glory, that every knee should bend and every tongue should confess your name.

We hold before you the troubled nations of the world, for the many places where man's self-centredness and pride prevent the work of peace and the outpouring of your grace.

Comfort and heal the sick, the bereaved, those worried about loved ones, those confronting poverty and homelessness. We continue to pray for those infected by Covid19 and those facing long term complications. Especially we pray for those known to us……

We pray for ourselves, your servants, that we may learn from your example of humility, that we may empty our minds of irrelevancies and allow your grace to enter and work in us.

O my sweet Saviour Christ, which in thine undeserved love towards mankind so kindly wouldst suffer the painful death of the cross, suffer me not to be cold nor lukewarm in love again towards thee. *(Thomas More)*

We say the **LORD'S PRAYER** in our favoured version.
We share the **GRACE**.
(**G**od's **R**iches **A**t **C**hrist's **E**xpense *(anon)*).

FINAL PRAYER May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself; may the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in his service; may the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our souls *(William Temple*).