Dear friend

I am pleased to enclose this week's service celebrating St Luke the Evangelist, prepared by Judith.

As we commemorate St Luke the physician, it is good to think of God's healing power. This is a theme of Whittier's hymn 'Immortal love' sung, with descant, by Trinity College Cambridge choir (words provided):

https://youtu.be/eMLvVYFxCT0

'Heal me O Lord', a worship song and meditation by Don Moen:

https://youtu.be/2UmIGzQfUQM

Here is a version of verses of today's Psalm, 147, by Esther Mui:

https://youtu.be/vDO1T2m9ux0

Claudio Monteverdi 's ebullient setting of the second part of Psalm147, Lauda Jerusalem, from his Vespers of 1610, is sung here by the Eindhoven Vocal ensemble:

https://youtu.be/2DoioUweBLs

For those who like the Russian sound, here is Rachmaninov's setting of 'Praise the Lord' (Blagoslovi, dushe moya) sung by the USSR Ministry of Culture chamber choir:

https://youtu.be/oYvw7jm-lsw

For a final organ flourish, the finale of Saint-Saens symphony no 3 is arranged for organ and played in a church in Ashton under Lyme by Jonathan Scott:

https://youtu.be/Eq_jzx-gLBk

Happy St Luketide!

Chris

**Sunday 18th October – (Trinity 19) Saint Luke**
Day by day, O Lord, let us ardently seek your presence, lovingly walk with you and willingly spend ourselves in your service. At the day's end let us not be found hiding our talents nor at the end of our life be unready to rise up and meet you in the feast of your kingdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen
*Richard Baxter (1615-1691)*

**CONFESSION** Lord, we ask your forgiveness for our missed opportunities and our unwillingness to make major adjustments to our lives to obey your commands. We pray that we will hear your call loud and clear, and become involved in the work of your kingdom. Amen. *John Sweeney*
*May Almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. Amen*

**THE COLLECT** Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your church the same love and power to heal; 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** Acts 16: 6-12a; Psalm 147: 1-7; 2 Timothy 4: 5-17; Luke 10: 1-9

**REFLECTION** 'An orderly account' is what the Gentile writer of Luke's gospel promises to Theophilus, who needs to know 'the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.' And it is to the same man that Luke writes at the beginning of his account of the 'acts of the apostles'– the story of the spreading of the gospel, which continues to this day. The two pieces of writing comprise over a quarter of the text of the New Testament. Luke's gospel account is the result of his careful investigations, and close reference to 'eyewitnesses and servants of the word.' Today's gospel reading is part of that careful reconstruction of the events of Jesus' life and work. The instruction to the seventy to precede him on his journey, preparing people for the coming of the kingdom, was not witnessed personally by Luke, but was certainly obeyed by him when later, he became a part of Paul's great work of evangelism. In the verses from Acts 16 and 2 Timothy 4, we encounter Luke, faithfully serving his Lord; named 'the physician' by Paul, it is through Luke that we know today of many of the healing miracles of Jesus.

**PRAYERS** Lord, let us not give up your cause, nor abandon your work. Let us not give up the fight. Let us persevere, until we see your kingdom come and enter into your glory.
*Francis Ashbury (1745-1816)*
We pray for the church, and for all who work to spread the knowledge of your love throughout the world; for the Church Mission Society and the USPG. We pray, too, for all who take healing and health to places where there is great need, especially where Covid 19 is taking fresh hold. We pray for the sick and suffering, naming those dear to us before you now…….
*Lord, you are a present help in trouble; Come, revive, redeem, restore. In darkness, come as light, in sadness, come as joy, in troubles come as peace, in weakness, come as strength.*
*(David Adam)*
We give you daily thanks for all your goodness; help us to share your love through our service to others during the coming week.
We say **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

We share **THE GRACE:**

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. *Isaiah 35:5-6*