Dear friend
I am pleased to enclose this week's service, prepared by Judith, for the feast of All Saints'. A rousing seasonal hymn, 'For all the saints', to Vaughan Williams' tune Sine Nomine; your chance to sing with King's college choir:

https://youtu.be/1OaBgaMcOvM

and of course, on this Sunday we have to include old Satchmo himself, with friends, in this vintage recording:

https://youtu.be/wyLjbMBpGDA

The Latin words "O quam gloriosum", the second antiphon for All Saints', are based on Revelations 7.9 and have been a source of inspiration for many composers. Choristers will be familiar with Tomas Luis de Victoria's setting, sung by the Monteverdi choir with the music to sing along to (printed at a different pitch):

https://youtu.be/feAT-Kxw5rc

William Byrd's setting is also fine, here sung by Durham Cathedral choir:

https://youtu.be/yox6Ihan004

Settings in English include a rather grandiose one by the Gloucestershire composer Basil Harwood (author of some well-known hymn tunes with local names), recorded recently with appropriate social distancing, in the Jacobijnerkerk, Leeuwarden, Netherlands:

https://youtu.be/E_GkKO4d7xk

The contemporary composer and organist Philip Stopford's jubilant setting is in a similar vein, with some good tunes (NB, I think wither should be whither). Here is the score to allow you to join in:

https://youtu.be/neeaLNLUXmg

Additionally, I rather like this more reflective setting of the words by Healey Willan, an English composer known mostly for his church music. He moved to Toronto and played a huge part in developing church music-making in Canada:

https://youtu.be/K6mvN4Didwk

Finally, from Martin, 'Before the Throne of God Above'. "This hymn by Irish native Charitie Lees Smith (1841–1923) with tune by the contemporary American composer, Vikky Cook. A lovely anthem which I find very moving."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXHXFhJA4SY

With all good wishes
Chris

Sunday November 1st –All Saints' Day

We praise and thank you, Holy Spirit of God, for the men and women you have called to be saints; from your first fallible, frightened friends who followed you to Jerusalem, through the centuries of discovery and growth; people of every class and temperament, down to the present day,
A New Zealand Prayer Book

CONFESSION Lord, you know well that I love you; have pity on me, for I am nothing but a sinner. *St Thérèse of Lisieux*

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Common Worship

COLLECT Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; 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.

READINGS Revelation 7:9-end; Psalm 34:1-10; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

REFLECTION 'You're a saint!' we cry, when someone does something helpful. Then we read of the long and complicated process of canonisation, and we wonder – what exactly is a saint? In Bible terms, the word means 'set apart' or 'made holy'. Today's readings all point to a special relationship with God, which is available to all who will seek him out - 'take refuge in him'; the beautiful picture in the passage from Revelation speaks of the 'one who is seated on the throne' who 'will shelter them'- those who have' come out of the great ordeal'; as God's children we are told that when all is revealed, 'we shall be like him'- what a glorious promise! Paul wrote to 'the saints' – meaning those, first Jews, then Gentiles, who had accepted and chosen to follow Jesus. Then come the verses from Matthew; Martin Ward writes, 'Jesus was a revolutionary because he wanted us to see the world from God's perspective. In the Beatitudes, he turns the given rules of the world upside-down.' However we choose to interpret the word 'saint', may we perhaps use these revolutionary Beatitudes as a recipe for the happiness of life in Christ.

PRAYERS *Gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate on you and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*
St Benedict of Nursia (480-547)

We pray for the church, and for all who strive to follow Jesus' revolutionary example.

We pray for the world; for all people who are suffering, through war, hunger, poverty or natural disaster, giving thanks for agencies and individuals who give of themselves to others.

We pray for those who are sick, or suffering loneliness, anxiety, or fear of what the future holds. We give thanks for the dedication of medical staff and other key workers as Covid cases increase. We bring before you now all those whose special needs are in our minds at this time…….

We remember and praise you for the saints and martyrs of this and every age, whose lives, like seeds, dropped to the ground, yet whose witness has inspired us and borne fruit.
(John Bell, the Iona community)

We say **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

We share **THE GRACE**

And finally: 'I am not a saint, unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying.'
Nelson Mandela