Dear friend
Herewith the service sheet for Sunday, when we celebrate Christ the King.

To start with, a hymn known to generations of choristers as ‘Kinkering Kongs’, here played to Orientis Partibus for you to sing along to:

https://youtu.be/6mUg2s7hs8Y

Graham Kendrick’s ‘The Servant King’, with its excellent words, is nicely done by Chet Valley Churches:

https://youtu.be/E4963QPHAIM

There are many settings of Psalm 95, Venite Exultemus, the first canticle sung at Matins. Here is a joyful one by Sweelinck, conducted by Tammi Alderman:

https://youtu.be/GDInu77Y9Bk

Here it is sung by the Mendota High School Madrigal choir, Illinois:

https://youtu.be/UddH2k4KPOY

Here is a Taizé version:

https://youtu.be/rhz1pBi_1kE

A setting in English, by the Tudor composer Robert Parsons, sung by Voces Cantabilis, directed by Barnaby Smith:

https://youtu.be/pFxibN-MpAw

Finally, from Martin, a version of Sidney Carter’s ‘Lord of the Dance’, sung with enjoyment by Heath Mount School Choir, BBC School Choir of the Year in 2012:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YV15StV6TK0

May you find joy in these clips!

Chris.

VIRTUAL SERVICE 22.11.20. **CHRIST THE KING**.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving: and show ourselves glad in him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God: and a great King above all gods. *(Psalm 95:1-3)*

CONFESSION. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. *Almighty God … pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. (from General Confession and Absolution, BCP)*

COLLECT. Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King; keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS. Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24, Ps.95.1-7, Ephesians 1.15-end, Matthew 25.31-end.

REFLECTION. This week's gospel reading continues the theme of judgement. Christ will return in power, with an army of angels, in stark contrast to his first appearance on earth as a vulnerable refugee baby, or his execution as a common criminal. Rather than discussing complex theology, Jesus uses the analogy of sheep (valued for their wool), versus goats, a scenario familiar to his listeners, and echoed in today's passage from Ezekiel. Jesus emphasizes the practical implications of following him, that every act of generosity, every welcome to a stranger, we do for him. Most of us have "sheep" and "goat" moments, and so often our sins are those of omission rather than commission, perhaps when we cross the street to avoid eye contact with someone asking for money, the phone call we *didn't* get around to making to a distressed person, and so on. Of course, we are not saved by our good deeds, in a kind of celestial balance sheet, but they are the natural consequence of serving Jesus as King, who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the cross to save us. As Paul puts it, may we know what is the "hope to which he has called us," what are the "riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints" (Ephesians 1.18).

PRAYERS. Lord, our gracious King, we give thanks that you have conquered over evil. Forgive us when we are enslaved by the false lures of wealth and power. Forgive us when we squander the earth's resources. Help us to reflect your generosity to us, to learn to share, to treat this fragile earth with respect.

We pray for the nations of this world, that their leaders may serve their peoples with humility, that debate and mutual respect may replace abuse and conflict. We continue to pray for the United States following the election. We pray for the many areas of this world where there is tension and oppression.

We pray for your Church, your body here on earth, that we may not be afraid to speak up where there is injustice or bullying, that in our dealings with others we may obey the laws of your kingdom by demonstrating your love.

We bring before you those who are sick in mind, body or spirit, the victims of natural disaster, those who are displaced and dispossessed or living on the margins of society. Especially we pray for…….

Disturbing God, you identify with the weak and powerless, and surprise us as we seek to do your will. Help us to find true hope in the now of our action rather than in the distant future of our longings *(Joy Tetley).*

We say the **LORD's PRAYER**.
We share **THE GRACE**.

FINAL PRAYER. Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*(BCP)*