Greetings!
I am pleased to enclose this week's virtual service sheet.
A hymn to warm up…

Angel voices ever singing, with lyrics, from Norwich

https://youtu.be/HOf3ATIJw18

On a vinous note, You are the vine, the popular worship song with lyrics to join in, here sung warmly by a Singaporean choir

https://youtu.be/sicaArhwbIw

Another worship song, Bridegroom, King and Judge with Misty Edwards and Pablo Perez

https://youtu.be/jp7Kui99TBg

The Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah sets part of the text from today's Revelation reading; many performances use massive forces, which can make it rather bloated. Here is a joyful and nimble version, with a rolling score, sung by Voces 8 plus members of their Scholars scheme, with Apollo V and the Academy of Ancient Music

https://youtu.be/IUcK2R2ev_g

Many of you will be familiar with the rendition of this chorus by a group of silent monks; if not, here is one of many versions in front of a live audience

https://youtu.be/s_dY2jh5R3M

Many believe that the wonderful poetry of the Song of Solomon (Song of songs) is an allegory for the love between Jesus, the bridegroom and his church. Over the centuries the book has been a goldmine for composers. One of my favourite settings, often sung at Easter, is Rise up, my love, my fair one, by Healey Willan, sung with a light,silky texture by the choir of St Mary Magdalene,Toronto, a choir which he directed for many years.

https://youtu.be/60uVwwVch74

Enjoy!
Chris

VIRTUAL SERVICE 24.01.2021.
The Third Sunday of Epiphany.

Come, Lord Jesus, into my heart and home.
You are a welcome guest.
Feast at my table, drink of my wine.
Thank you for your friendship.
Please stay with me now and always.
(Josephine Bax)

CONFESSION Generous God, forgive us when we fail to acknowledge and celebrate the abundance of your created world, when we are less than generous in sharing your extravagant gifts with others. *May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord (Common Worship)*

COLLECT Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence; renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 Genesis 14.17-20, Psalm 128, Revelation 19.6-10, John 2.1-11.

REFLECTION John is the only gospel writer to describe the events at Cana, and he is keen to underline their significance, as with other "signs" of Jesus' divinity in his gospel. We get a glimpse of Jesus' humanity, too, as he takes part in the prolonged celebration of a Jewish wedding, rather than denouncing the evils of alcohol. Mary may have been involved in the catering, as she is quick to observe that the wine is running dry. She puts her implicit trust in Jesus, even after he initially appears to step back from the problem. She instructs the servants to do what Jesus tells them and they obey, filling the six jars to the brim with water for purification, about 120 - 180 gallons. This detail exemplifies God's generosity to us, full to overflowing. In Judaism, wine represents the Law; here, water which can never fully purify, is converted to the new wine of the gospel. In the celestial banquet, Jesus is the bridegroom and we are invited to the wedding feast. If, like Mary and the obedient servants, we can put our trust in him, he transforms our lives. The old religion of our guilt, symbolized by the water jars, becomes the religion of God's grace, the best wine saved till last.

PRAYERS As we come to the end of the week of prayer for Christian unity, we bring before you the different branches of your church here on earth; heal our brokenness. Enable us, in mutual love and understanding, to work together to heal the wounds of society, for the glory of your kingdom.

We pray for peace among nations, for the many countries in difficulties. Especially we pray for the new leaders of the United States; grant them humility, wisdom and compassion as they tackle the challenges ahead.

We bring to your loving care all who are sick and suffering, those affected by Covid and those whose treatment or investigation is delayed because of it, the victims of flood, fire and earthquake. Especially we pray for…….

We give thanks for the gift of scientific endeavour and collaboration, for all vaccinators and others providing healthcare and frontline services worldwide.

We say the **LORD'S PRAYER**
We share the **GRACE**

FINAL PRAYER Open my eyes that they may see the deepest needs of people; move my hands that they may feed the hungry; touch my heart that it may bring warmth to the despairing; teach me the generosity that welcomes strangers; let me share my possessions to clothe the naked; give me the care that strengthens the sick; make me share in the quest to set the prisoners free. In sharing our anxieties and our love, our poverty and our prosperity, we partake of your divine presence. *(Canaan Banana)*