Dear friend
On Thursdays during Lent (starting on 18th February) at 7.30pm we are planning a series of short Zoom sessions, ‘A Journey to Easter’, lasting no longer than an hour.

It's not a Lent course as such, but a period of prayer and readings extracted from the book ‘An ocean of grace’ by Tim Chester, recommended by Jeannette. In this book, the author pairs a biblical text with writings from past centuries.

Sally Davis has kindly offered to host the Zoom sessions and, if you would like to join us, please contact her on beneficechurchtrio@gmail.com by the preceding weekend so that she can send the link beforehand; Monday@9 participants will be included automatically. Don't feel you have to commit yourself to every week - it'll be good to see you when you are able to join us.

Many thanks to Judith for preparing this week's service sheet. She has suggested ‘For the beauty of the earth’ as our hymn, so yer tiz to the tune of England’s Lane:

https://youtu.be/tOVFvctxv6c

For children of all ages, a chance to sing along to, ‘Who put the colours in the rainbow?’ (make sure you do the actions):

https://youtu.be/kdlPfxiwDrw

John Rutter’s sprightly setting of ‘For the beauty of the earth’, sung by the Cambridge Singers, conducted by the composer:

https://youtu.be/1bDoMflYErE

There are many tracks mixing the sounds of humpback whales with mood music; here is a short sample of the unadorned sound of these majestic creatures (the Leviathan of Psalm 104):

https://youtu.be/5tRMqbPH_pk

The text from Proverbs 8 is echoed in the text of Will Todd’s lyrical piece, ‘The Call of Wisdom’, here sung by Tenebrae and commissioned for the Queen's Silver Jubilee:

https://youtu.be/ACqvjwV1ZJo

Enjoy!
Chris

Service for Sunday 7th February:
Second Sunday before Lent

Blessed are you Creator God, to you be glory and praise for ever! Your Spirit moved over the face of the waters to bring light and life to your creation. Pour out your Spirit on us this day, that we may walk as children of light and by your grace reveal your presence, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *(Monday @9)*

CONFESSION God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully. Hear our prayer, and in your mercy, forgive us and heal us. *(Common Worship)*
He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities, for as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him. (Ps.103)

COLLECT Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

READINGS Proverbs 8: 1,22-31; Psalm 104:26-end; Colossians 1:15-20; John 1:1-14

REFLECTION Ever since people have lived on the earth and have had the ability to think and to reason, they have had an overwhelming desire to describe and to attempt to explain the unfathomable depths of God's creative power, as they have begun to understand it. As Veronica Zundel puts it, 'Before there was any written record God was communicating with humankind in many ways, through creation, through human love, through prophecy'. All of today's readings bring out aspects of the overpowering love which lies at the heart of all creation; the feminine 'Wisdom' of Proverbs, the power, yet intimate knowledge shown by God in the Psalm. We are used to hearing John's great echo of the opening lines of Genesis; a summing up of 'the word made flesh' who has been so sadly unrecognised by many in the world. The Gospel passage is the last of today's readings to have been written. Paul, writing to the church in Colossæ from his prison in Rome describes Jesus,'…the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation' some 30-40 years before John wrote his poetic exposition. Paul, well-versed in scripture, knew what earlier writers had attempted to describe. He, and later John, put Jesus at the heart of creation. 'He himself is before all things, and in him, all things hold together'.

PRAYERS *O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all.* Ps.104:24
We pray for the world, and all who live in it, and especially for those who experience hunger, poverty or fear. We pray for the people of Myanmar, the Russian Federation and the Tigray province of Ethiopia.
We pray for those suffering from Covid 19 and for all who are ministering to them, and also for those living with other illnesses. We ask your blessing on all who are lonely, anxious or depressed, and for those suffering from any kind of abuse. In a moment of silence, we bring others we know before you now……
We thank you for the good things in your creation which come to us each day. Help us never to take them for granted.

We say **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

We share **THE GRACE**

FINAL PRAYER
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
(Book of Common Prayer)