Dear friends
Here is this week's virtual service, prepared by Judith.

A worship song to sing along to, ‘All heaven declares’:

https://youtu.be/kPkZAjA610k

For a more trad hymn, here are Trinity College, Cambridge, singing ‘The spacious firmament on high’ to the tune Addison's:

https://youtu.be/hrEraKffwYQ

Judith has suggested the chorus ‘The heavens are telling’, from Haydn’s Creation, which, like the hymns, reflects the beginning of today’s psalm. Here it is, with rolling vocal score for choristers to join in, sung by King's College under David Willcocks:

https://youtu.be/OwqqfbinUDY

I remember singing, as a student, Zoltan Kodaly’s dramatic a cappella setting of ‘Jesus and the traders’, and it’s become a firm favourite of mine; here sung by NDSU choir (in English):

https://youtu.be/az9_NM8Zl4Q

Alexander Sheremetev’s Now the Powers of heaven has some wonderful silky bass notes, sung by Gallus Octet (or from the photo, septet?):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pClXbi5qzNM

A similar theme in this splendid worship song from Martin, Ancient of Days (Live) - Ron Kenoly. A huge gospel choir sings Ron’s awesome anthem:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4dR_zuB3qk

Hope that puts a spring in your step!

Chris

SERVICE for 7th March, 3rd Sunday of Lent

O God, whose glory the heavens are telling, the earth your power, the sea your might, and whose greatness all the hosts of heaven proclaim; to you belongs all glory, honour, majesty and praise; both now and for ever, and to the ages of ages, Amen.
(Liturgy of Saint James, 5th century)

CONFESSION

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins. For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world about us; Father, forgive us: save us and help us.
May almighty God, who sent his Son into the world to save sinners, bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. Amen
(Common Worship)

COLLECT Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2: 13-22

REFLECTION The heavens are telling the glory of God, but on earth, people have complicated the law with various rules and regulations, obscuring the message and making true worship almost impossible. At least, that's how the raucous Court of the Gentiles appears when Jesus arrives. All four gospels recount the story of the cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem; only John puts it at the beginning of Jesus's ministry – the other three gospel writers place it near the end; a reason for the determination of the Pharisees to silence Jesus. It's possible that John wants us to realise how significant this episode is; Jesus has come to overturn the corruption which is preventing those who seek God from finding him. The Temple court has become invaded by many who are actually obeying the rules about attendance fees and sacrifices whilst making a good profit on the side. Jesus wades in, and astounds the authorities with his prophetic words; 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' Foolishness indeed, they say. A sobering thought for us today: William Barclay comments, 'Is there anything in our church life which keeps the seeking stranger out?'

PRAYERS

Gracious Father, fill your whole Church with truth and peace; where it is corrupt, purge it; where it is in error, direct it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; and where it is divided and torn asunder, heal it and bind up its wounds; through Christ our Lord. Amen. *(William Laud, 1573-1645)*

We pray for all who worship you today, especially those who are persecuted for their faith.

We pray for the world; for places where poverty, hunger and fear affect both adults and children, thinking especially of Yemen, Syria and the Tigray province of Ethiopia.

We pray for ourselves and for those we love…….

We pray for the sick and suffering, the lonely and the anxious, and in a quiet moment we name those in our own minds at this time…..
Grant them the knowledge of your healing love.

We thank you for the many blessings which come to us each day.

We say the **LORD'S PRAYER**

We share **THE GRACE**

AND FINALLY:

We love the place, O God,
Wherein thine honour dwells;
The joy of thine abode
All earthly joy excels.
(Henry W. Baker 1821-1877)