Dear friend
I am pleased to enclose this week's virtual service.

Today's hymn is Wesley's Love's redeeming work is done, sung *a cappella* to the tune Savannah by individual collegiate choir members of St Mary's, Warwick, and expertly knitted together. Words provided, do join in!
https://youtu.be/LEbBB8DoBIE

Saget, saget From Bach's Easter Oratorio (Tell me where I may find Jesus), sung by a youthful Andreas Scholl, with Collegium Vocale, Ghent, directed by Philippe Herreweghe:
https://youtu.be/Qr1NUz5edM0

Jesus appearing to Thomas, for kids of all ages:
https://youtu.be/A_QcGnwilXI

Blaine Garner's song, 'He did', telling Thomas' story:
https://youtu.be/RImyI8z-s_k

Finally, to commemorate HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the first part of a Requiem, by an English (sadly not Greek) composer, Herbert Howells, expressively performed by the young group Siglo de Oro in St James' church, Sussex Gardens:
https://youtu.be/4KPURDivv6o

With Easter greetings
Chris

VIRTUAL SERVICE 11.04.21
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought. *(John Newton)*

CONFESSION Forgive us, Lord, when we want proofs for our faith, and demand absolute certainty before we commit ourselves to you. Strengthen our trust in you, so that we, who have not seen you, may still believe, and in believing may be blessed with the fullness of joy, now and always. *(Angela Ashwin)* *Pour upon the poverty of our love, and the weakness of our praise, the transforming fire of your presence.* *(Common Worship).*

COLLECT Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification; grant us to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS Psalm 133, Exodus 14.10-end, 15.20-21, Acts 4.32-35, John 20.19-end.

REFLECTION Poor Thomas, destined to be remembered as "Doubting Thomas"! The other disciples had already witnessed the risen Jesus, and had overcome their doubts and fears, and their guilt at letting Jesus down at his time of trial. Once Thomas' doubts were resolved, he too became an active, committed follower; tradition has it that he spread the gospel as far as India, where he was martyred. On both occasions in today's gospel reading, when Jesus entered the locked room he greeted his disciples with "Shalom" (peace be with you). Although this is a standard greeting, Jesus had already told them that his peace was one "the world cannot give". Jesus' peace is not just absence of war, not a cosy warm feeling, but a strong bond between everyone who tries to do God's will.

Throughout the centuries, billions have not seen the physical Jesus, but have come to believe. Each of us stands alongside that small group of bewildered, yet excited, fishermen, who were entrusted with Jesus' authority to continue his ministry. We are commissioned to share the joy of Easter, to enable others to meet Jesus. It is a daunting prospect, and one we cannot achieve in our own strength, but Jesus breathes on us, as he did on his disciples, and the Holy Spirit walks with us on our journey, through the good and bad times.



PRAYERS



(Easter Garden, All Saints' Farmborough, 2021)

Living God, for whom no door is closed, no heart is locked, draw us beyond our doubts, till we see your Christ and touch his wounds where they bleed in others. *(NZ Prayer Book)*.

Living Lord, we rejoice in your glorious resurrection, that you have set us free from the shackles of sin and guilt. Empower us to share the joyful news of Easter.
We pray for those who cannot share in that joy; those who feel lonely, depressed or fearful, those in physical or mental pain, those who cannot see any relevance to life.
We pray for the troubled nations of this earth, for all who are oppressed, fearful and hungry.
We bring before you all who are sick or suffering. Especially we remember……

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

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
whom death could not contain,
who lives to disturb and heal us,
bless us with power to go forth
and proclaim the gospel. *(Janet Morley)*