Dear friend
I enclose this Sunday's virtual service.

For people outwith our Benefice , please forgive a plug for our Friends and Family service at 11am at Farmborough. We will be pleased to welcome Trevor James, a lay Pioneer Minister based in Hygge Park, Keynsham. He will be talking about his personal journey as a Pioneer. We initially invited him before we knew that our next incumbent will have a pioneer role, so it will be interesting and very relevant to hear of Trevor's experience.

Now on with the music…

A Victorian-inspired presentation of the hymn 'The sower', with lyrics:
https://youtu.be/n6zhrVvoUAg

Andrew Peterson sings the 'Sower's song':
https://youtu.be/3unpvYQJiic

A joyful rendition of John Rutter's celebration of creation, 'Look at the world', massed forces conducted by the man himself:
https://youtu.be/nDa-Mab4SoU

For choristers, a chance to sing along with the King's Singers in Byrd's Ave verum
https://youtu.be/2LfsHB7E9TA

Finally, a couple of worship songs kindly supplied by Martin (apologies if I've sent these before, but they're worth another airing).

Gregory Porter, 'Thank You' (Lyric Video). It's time for some thumping, feel-good, gospel from Gregory's new album. Time to count our blessings. Thank you:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yRZK43gfyE

'Ancient of Days' (Live), Ron Kenoly. A huge gospel choir sings Ron's awesome anthem:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4dR_zuB3qk

With every good wish,
Chris

VIRTUAL SERVICE 13.06.21
SECOND SUNDAY after TRINITY

Almighty God, you called us to labour in your vineyard. Keep us faithful in your service, whether the harvest be plentiful, or the soil seem barren and our labour unprofitable, knowing that the harvest is yours, and you will reap in your own appointed time, to the glory of your holy Name. *Eric Milner-White/GW Briggs*

CONFESSION O God, though our sins be seven, though they be seventy times seven, though our sins be more in number than the hairs of our head, yet give us grace in loving penitence to cast ourselves down into the depths of your compassion. *Christina Rossetti*
Merciful God, prone as we are to blame others and hate ourselves, take from our eyes the dust that blinds us, that we may treat one another by the light of your compassion, and in the spirit of Jesus Christ who is the Light of the world Jim Cotter

COLLECT Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth; send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS Ezekiel 17.22-end, Psalm 92.1-4, 12-end, 2 Cor 5.6-17, Mark 4.26-34.

REFLECTION Those listening to Jesus would have been familiar with the imagery of a mighty tree, representing a restored kingdom of Israel. Ezekiel poetically describes the Lord taking a small sprig from a cedar to create a noble new tree. In the passage from Mark's gospel, Jesus, with gentle humour, seems to subvert this image. At best, mustard plants are scraggy shrublets (he uses the Greek word "lachanon" [=herb or vegetable]), and they wouldn't provide much shelter for the "birds of the air". The kingdom of God is very different from the expectations of his listeners, a kingdom of humility rather than triumphalism.
The parable of the farmer emphasizes the importance of tiny beginnings, the miracle of tiny seeds being nurtured in the earth to create new plants. Just as the farmer trustingly sows the seeds, our tiny acts of love, our moments of witness can be cultivated by the Holy Spirit. We can be easily discouraged at the lack of instant results, but God will give growth in his own time.

PRAYERS Grant us, Lord God, the vision of your Kingdom, forgiveness and new life, and the stirring of your Spirit, so that we may share your vision, proclaim your love, and change this world, in the name of Christ. *(Church in Australia)*

We pray for the nations of the world; at this time of the G7 summit, we pray for a spirit of mutual co-operation, a sense of responsibility for this fragile planet, a generosity to those less fortunate. May we share our resources, our skills, our vaccines with those in need.

We bring to your loving care those who are sick, the distressed, the lonely, those who mourn loved ones, those affected by natural or man-made disaster. We pray for those who live in fear of abuse, of the violent acts of others, and we pray for those who feel they have to use violence to achieve their aims. Especially we ask for your blessing on……

Support us, Lord, when we feel disheartened or despairing; grant us patience and keep us faithful in the small things.

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

FINAL PRAYER O Almighty God, we pray, sow the seed of your Word in our hearts, and send down upon us your heavenly grace, that we may bring forth the fruits of the spirit, and at the great day of harvest may be gathered by your holy angels into your harvest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *(Canterbury Convocation)*