Dear Friend
I enclose this week's virtual service, celebrating Petertide. As an opening hymn, 'O Jesus, I have promised', sung to Wolvercote, courtesy of the resourceful Chet valley churches
https://youtu.be/9pjAnOf_Qd4

or, if you prefer, Geoffrey Beaumont's tune Hatherop Castle
https://youtu.be/aNz-33V1V8A

'Surely he hath borne our griefs', followed by 'And with his stripes and All we, like sheep', from Handel's Messiah, sung by the Monteverdi choir with the English Baroque soloists under John Eliot Gardiner. There's a rolling score for singers to follow.
https://youtu.be/Tt9cd0BgcH8
https://youtu.be/0Rh25hN89B8
https://youtu.be/IDar_26Inrk

A cartoon version of Jesus calling Peter
https://youtu.be/EhIwTU9RbxY

Finally, from Martin, Kristyn Getty and The All Souls Orchestra 'In Christ Alone'.
The greatest worship song given a big orchestral treatment
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkFlUzcGvrE

Happy Petertide!
Chris

VIRTUAL SERVICE 27.06.21
PETERTIDE

O God, our Father, the fountain of love, power and justice, the God who cares, particularly for the least, the most suffering and the poorest among us.
O God, Lord of creation, grant us today your guidance and wisdom so that we may see the human predicament for what it is.
Give us courage and obedience so that we may follow you completely. Help us, Lord, to bear witness to the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, who alone is the reason for hope, and in whose name we pray. *Koson Srisang*.

CONFESSION Lord God, I bring to you:
My sins for your forgiveness.
My hopes, my ambitions for your blessings.
My temptations for your strength.
My words, my responsibilities for your help.
My family, friends and all loved ones for your care and protection. My sickness for your healing. *World Day of Prayer 1991*.

COLLECT Almighty God, who inspired your apostle Saint Peter to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God; build up your Church upon this rock, that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS Ezekiel 3.22-end, Psalm 125, Acts 12.1-11, 1 Peter2.19-end, Matthew 16.13-19.

REFLECTION "It's not fair!" – a common complaint of an aggrieved child. Life was anything but fair for most of the audience to whom Peter addressed his letters. These early Christians were exiles, working as domestic servants/slaves; they were often treated brutally, particularly if they failed to worship the gods of their Roman masters. They were powerless in earthly terms, but by submitting to unjust punishment without retaliating, they would display a strength that is of God.
Peter had learnt this the hard way; he had tried to dissuade Jesus from his journey to the cross, he had watched Jesus' suffering, with the added guilt that he had failed to support him. Jesus accepted his unjust punishment on our behalf, humbly, without resistance. As Charles Spurgeon out it, "So long as life lingered, the apostle would remember the meek and quiet bearing of his suffering Lord". Of course, Peter is not condoning the abuse of others. People can be trapped in abusive domestic relationships; trafficking of slaves and people smuggling are all too common. We have a duty, as the church of God, to prevent oppression by individuals or states.

PRAYERS O God, our heavenly Father, who so loved the world that you gave your only Son to die upon the cross: Pour your love into our hearts, we humbly beseech you: that we, loving you above all things, may give up ourselves, our time, our money, our talents, to your service; for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *John Stott*.

We pray for all victims of oppression and for their oppressors, those who are abused and their abusers, those who are unjustly imprisoned and their captors. Strengthen the work of agencies such as Christian Solidarity International and Amnesty International.

Loving Shepherd, we pray for all who stray away from you; when the cares, the joys, the busy-ness of life distract us, bring us back to the fold.

Comfort and heal all who suffer, through physical or mental sickness or pain, those who are lonely, the bereaved, the victims of human cruelty or negligence and natural disaster. Especially we pray for……..

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

Goodness is stronger than evil,
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death;
victory is ours through him who loves us.
Desmond Tutu