Dear friend
I am pleased to enclose this week's virtual service, prepared by Judith.

She suggested as a hymn 'The king of love', ideally to St Columba.
The King of love (St Columba), Cardiff Festival choir:
https://youtu.be/d50KE9jMVWY

or some may prefer the tune Dominus Regit me, here from a Songs of Praise recording, with lyrics:
https://youtu.be/MwqahDvURsQ

John Rutter's arrangement of the St Columba tune; nice harp playing by Thelma Owen with the Cambridge Singers:
https://youtu.be/fO-57y575jc

Stuart Townend's popular version of psalm 23:
https://youtu.be/pN4tPkX0MG0

I'm rather partial to Lennox Berkeley's more astringent setting:
https://youtu.be/Lak_cZQ-Xeo

Finally, from Martin, Antoine Bradford 'Trust in You' (Acoustic). Chilled version of the song with a lovely vocal:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYKzxiSV9Kk

With every blessing,
Chris

Service sheet for 18th July
7th Sunday after Trinity

Prince of Peace, we pray for the peace that brings freedom out of fear, hope out of grief, dignity out of violation. Lead our sisters and brothers out of the valley of the shadow of death to a place of still waters, green pastures and restoration. *(Christian Aid)*

CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us… *(BCP)*
May God our Father forgive us our sins, and bring us to the fellowship of his table with his saints for ever. Amen (CW)

COLLECT

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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. Amen.

READINGS

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2: 11-end; Mark 6:30-34,53-end

REFLECTION

Children, presented with a sandwich, can be expert at picking out or licking off the filling, and cheerfully discarding the bread. Today's extracts from Mark's gospel, like pieces of bread around a sandwich filling, ask us to concentrate on the purpose of Jesus's ministry. The stories which are left out are ones on which we so often focus: the feeding of five thousand men (let alone women and children) and also Jesus walking on the water of the lake in the adverse wind which has blown the disciples' boat off course. All of today's readings remind us of God's compassion for the leaderless flock of humanity, both in Israel and in the wider world today. The prophecy of Jeremiah points to a time when God's people will be 'brought back to their fold'; the well-known words of Psalm 23 speak of the reliance we can place upon God's protective love, and Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus shows that, 'in Christ Jesus', that love is extended to the Gentile world. There is no barrier; Christ has broken down the dividing wall. 'Through him, both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.' The crowds described in the gospel extracts, are hungry, not just for food, but for leadership, for a shepherd who will, through his compassion, lead, heal and guide them into safety.

PRAYERS

In weakness, O Lord, be our strength; in our sinfulness, pardoning love; in our need, all sufficient grace. In our anxiety, be to us both stillness and rest and at all times be to us the fullness of blessing; through Christ our Lord. Amen (Frances Ridley Havergal, 1836-1879)
We pray for the church throughout the world, in our own communities and in all places where your name is praised. We pray for all those who are not free to worship you safely, and we ask you to heal all those who persecute others because of their beliefs.
We pray for all leaders, especially those who are responsible for the health and security of others. In this time of continuing pandemic, help them to look beyond their immediate concerns to the welfare of others in the wider world; to share resources and to be unselfish when placing restrictions on freedom.
We pray for the sick and suffering; for all who are lonely or anxious, and for the bereaved. *In your mercy maintain their courage, lift their burdens and renew their faith, that they may find in you their strength, their comfort and their peace.* (Frank Colquhoun)

WE SAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE SHARE THE GRACE

A FINAL THOUGHT –

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.
(Henry Williams Baker, 1821-1877)

