Dear Friends
Many thanks to Martin, who has prepared the service for this Sunday, and who has also selected a splendid selection of you tube clips to accompany it.

'All Creatures of Our God and King', performed by Sovereign Grace Music.
Written by St. Francis of Assisi - he loved God's creation and this song shows it. One of his famous sermons was when he was walking down a path and saw a tree full of birds. He stopped and began to preach a sermon to them. He told them to "keep singing and praising God – don't ever stop." And it looks like it worked. Great hymn in a contemporary version:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUZD0hgtSgE

'Wash Me Throughly' - Alex Hopkins.
Hauntingly beautiful new anthem composed in June 2020, a setting of Psalm 51, vv 2-3: *Wash me throughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin. For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me,* performed by a lockdown choir:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_p6Y_CS2b9g&list=RDGMEMMib4QpREwENw3_jAc0YgNw&start_radio=1&rv=MUZD0hgtSgE

'Blessed be the God and Father' – Wesley.
Samuel Sebastian Wesley's beloved anthem. Wesley composed this piece to be sung at Easter Sunday 1834, in Hereford Cathedral, where only a small number of trebles and a solitary bass was available to sing. Rumour persists that the only bass present was in fact the Dean's butler. Sung by Consortium, with rolling score:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=389leQkiGgk

'Day By Day'.
Godspell composer Stephen Schwartz is in the studio leading the Broadway revival recording of the cast album. With Anna Maria Perez de Tagle performing the signature song "Day By Day," Equity regulations dictated the entire album be completed in only one recording session!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW_RpWbnJXQ

'Thou Visitest the Earth' – Greene.
At the end of August, as the harvest is in full throw, lovely to hear this anthem about the goodness of creation. Edward Higginbottom, The Choir of New College, Oxford, with scrolling score:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uSMbcGB6t0

'I Love You Lord' | Lyric Video - Laurie Klein
This is a lovely soft chant which is designed to be a meditative prayer. Join in with the harmonies:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hyBJwTKmQ8

Enjoy!
Chris.

Sunday 29th August 2021, Trinity 13

Show us, O God of mercy, that no sin is so great that it cannot be confessed; no wound so deep that it cannot be healed, and no sinner so lost that grace cannot bring them home. Amen *(William Booth; 1829-1912)*

CONFESSION

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. (Ps. 51)

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

COLLECT

Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

READINGS Deut 4: 1-2,6-9, Psalm 15; James 1: 17 to end; Mark 7: 1-8, 14, 15, 21 - 23

REFLECTION

"Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger." these are wonderful words from James who reminds us that we can wound other people by opening our mouths before we engage our brains. In its eloquence it reminds us of the Serenity Prayer, "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." In Mark's Gospel, the Pharisees were trying to trick Jesus into admitting that not all his disciples had washed their hands before eating. He defended his followers by saying that it wasn't the outside world that would defile them, but rather, it was what people had in their hearts. He pointedly looked at his accusers and told them that evil and wicked thoughts come from within and not from without, "For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and they defile a person." So let us pray, in the words of Psalm 51. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

PRAYERS

Lord, we pray for our world, giving thanks for individuals and organisations spending time mediating in its troubles. We pray especially for diplomats, and for the work of the UNHCR United Nations refugee agency.

O Lord Jesus, stretch forth your wounded hands in blessing over your people, to heal and restore, and to draw them to yourself and to one another in love. (A prayer from the Middle East)

We pray for the sick and suffering, the lonely, the anxious and the sad. We name before you all those in our own minds at this time…….. We continue to pray for all medical staff, and all who are engaged in medical research. Grant them all the resources they need in their dedicated search for healing……

Give us, we pray you, gentle God, a mind forgetful of past injury, a will to seek the good of others and a heart of love. (A New Zealand Prayer Book).

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in your chosen version)
WE SHARE THE GRACE

A FINAL PRAYER

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.