Dear friends
A little early this week!

The first hymn is ‘How sweet the name of Jesus sounds’, words by John Newton, in early life a slave trader who, after being caught in a storm at sea, realized the error of his ways and became a major proponent of abolition of the slave trade, working alongside William Wilberforce. He became an evangelical Anglican cleric in London. Here, one of his most well-known hymns is set to the tune St Peter, performed by the Coventry singers, with lyrics to sing along:
https://youtu.be/h_A7ucIBSn4?list=TLPQMDcxMDIwMjHTRD0OV2E4iA

Alternatively, sung by Helen Yawson:
https://youtu.be/LFaoJTf62nk?list=TLPQMDcxMDIwMjHTRD0OV2E4iA

Another hymn which echoes the reading from Hebrews, ‘Jesus my great high priest’, words by Isaac Watts (modified), sung to Darwall’s 148th. by Gary Brumley:
https://youtu.be/18WtL8p7mUs

‘Jesus the High Priest’, a joyful performance by Cleft Rock Music:
https://youtu.be/UN8D2ys73Xo?list=TLPQMDcxMDIwMjHTRD0OV2E4iA

For choral singers, a rolling score of Bach’s motet, ‘Jesu meine freude’, with the Stockholm Bach choir conducted by Nickolaus Harnoncourt:
https://youtu.be/aV6YukM7rqQ

Finally, from Martin, ‘He Will Hold Me Fast’ (Live) Selah.
This is an old mission hymn to which Matt Merker wrote a beautiful new tune and adapted the lyrics, to breathe fresh life into the song, in 2013:
https://youtu.be/unLKmJJPExk

Happy listening, singing along!
Chris

VIRTUAL SERVICE 10.10.21
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The wounded surgeon plies the steel
That questions the distempered part;
Beneath the bleeding hands we feel
The sharp compassion of the healer's art
Resolving the enigma of the fever chart.
(from East Coker, Four Quartets, TS Eliot).

CONFESSION O God, whose nature it is to be generous; we confess to you our share of the guilt for a world of hungry families and homeless peoples; forgive us for our self-centred living and spending; forgive those who blame you for their failures. Grant that this week some who have given nothing may start to give; those who have given something may give more; that both our Church and our nation may give due place to the cries of those who have nothing to eat and nowhere to live; for the sake of Jesus Christ. *Christopher Idle*.

Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands. (Psalm 90 v 17).

COLLECT O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS Amos 5.6-7, 10-15, Psalm 90.12-end, Hebrews 4.12-end, Mark 10.17-31.

REFLECTION In today's gospel reading, the rich man approached Jesus, probably with a degree of self-satisfaction. He had kept the law diligently, he had ticked all the boxes. Yet his many possessions were a stumbling block, and he was deflated by Jesus' reply. Jesus asks us all to look at the excess baggage we carry through life. Our desire to amass material things and the addiction of retail therapy increase our selfishness and a fear of theft. Our possessions can possess us. Not all of us are called to sell everything we own and leave our earthly families or face persecution, but there have been and continue to be many who make these sacrifices for their faith.
The reading from Hebrews includes a striking warning, likening the word (the *logos*) of God to a two-edged sword which exposes and judges all our failings, analogous to a surgeon removing diseased tissue. Yet we have a sympathetic counsel for our defence in Jesus, who faced human temptations, just as we do, and understands our frailty. It can be difficult for us to reconcile our own grubbiness with Jesus' sinless example. Rather than wallowing in guilt, we can try to travel as light as possible on our earthly journey, to be generous with our wealth and time and to be honest before God about our imperfections. We cannot succeed on our own, but if we can accept the generosity of God's grace all things are possible.

PRAYERS We thank and praise you, Lord, for the gifts of your creation, and ask your blessing on mankind that one day we can learn to share with poorer nations so that no-one will go hungry. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. *(Delia Smith).*

O Lord Jesus, you have taught us that, if we wish to follow you, we must leave self behind. Keep us from all selfishness in our lives…. Keep us from being selfish in the use of the gifts and the possessions which you have given to us, and help us always to give and to share, and never to keep and to hold. *(William Barclay)*

Help us to be good stewards of this beautiful, fragile, planet. We pray that the forthcoming climate change discussions result in a determination to halt further global warming, and that words may be converted to decisive actions by a global consensus.

We pray for the troubled nations of the world, asking your blessing on all who strive for peace and mutual understanding. We continue to pray for war-torn nations and for the many people, especially women, in Afghanistan, who see their rights being eroded and who often live in fear for their lives.

We bring to your loving arms all who are sick or needy, those facing chronic illness, those undergoing unpleasant diagnostic tests or treatments, those who fear bad news. We pray for the victims of man-made or natural disasters, including fire, flood or earthquake, remembering the people of La Palma who see destruction in the path of lava flow. We hold in our prayers those who mourn loved ones.
Especially we pray for……

May the Lord be blessed for ever for the great gifts that he has continually heaped upon me, and may all that he has created praise him *(St Teresa of Avila)*

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

FINAL PRAYER Jesus, make our hearts ever gentler and more humble, so that we may be present to those you have confided to our care, and in this way make us instruments of your love which gives life and joy and real freedom. *(Jean Vanier)*