Dear Friend
Many thanks to Judith for this week's virtual service. She has suggested a couple of hymns, so here are…

'Brother, sister, let me serve you', here sung in a nice folksy version by Northumberland Community choir, with lyrics:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JahFRDrSCs

'Teach me, my God and king', George Herbert's poem sung to the hymn tune Sandys by Cardiff festival choir, under Owain Arwel Hughes:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHXilLgfVEU

'All we, like sheep from Messiah', sung enthusiastically by the National Youth choir, under Ben Parry:
https://youtu.be/bvTSql44k6Y

'O virgo prudentissima', a motet in honour of the Virgin Mary by Josquin des Prez, sung by the Gesualdo 6. This is the 500th anniversary of Josquin's death. He was a major figure in early renaissance music, influencing composers throughout Europe:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKH7eByg28I

Finally, from Martin, 'Build My Life' by Pat Barrett:
Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. Matthew 7:24-27
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z32HiCoFzlU

With every blessing
Chris

Service for 17th October -
The 20th Sunday after Trinity

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to seek for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will; through Christ our Lord. Amen. *(Ignatius of Loyola 1491-1556)*

CONFESSION

Lord, forgive me for the things I have done and not done; for the things I have said and not said; for the life I have lived and not lived, that I might reflect the image of the one I profess to follow, in thought, word and deed, and in discovering my true self draw others into that light. *(Faith and Worship)*

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name; when they call to me I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble…

*(*Psalm 91: 14-15a)

COLLECT

God the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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

Isaiah 53:4-end; Psalm 91:9-end; Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

REFLECTION

'I'm the greatest', was the headline of one of the newspapers on Monday morning - some sporting triumph or other, I believe! It's one of the least attractive aspects of human nature; to be competitive, not only to rise to the top, but to be seen there. Status symbols take many forms – not just the expensive car or watch – richly embellished robes and badges of office may also proclaim the supremacy of the wearer. Jesus turns the perceived notion of greatness on its head. The way the local rulers lord it over their subjects is not the way of God's kingdom. We know that Jesus practises what he preaches; the gospel accounts abound with stories of his own humble service. The notion of the servant king is carried to its limits at the cross, and the passage from Isaiah, with its poetic imagery of the suffering servant is reflected in Jesus's instructions to the disciples. 'It is hardly surprising that Christians down the centuries have seen in this prophet-servant the clear outline of Jesus.' (Walter Moberly). And, of course, there's nothing to stop anyone, including the wearer of the gorgeous robes, from serving others in love and charity.

PRAYERS

Dear Lord, we pray for all who meet together today in places of worship or in the quietness of their own homes to give you thanks and praise. We ask your blessing on all who enable us to worship; all who have humbled themselves to follow you and to share the good news of your love.

Give to us, Lord, the peace of those who have learnt to serve you, the joy of those who are glad to obey you, and the delight of those who rejoice in your praise. (Aidan of Lindisfarne)

We pray for the world, and for all who are most in need at this time, giving thanks for the many people working for organisations and charities who, through their lives of service, meet the needs of others. We pray for the sick; for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit, especially those in our own thoughts……..

We pray for all who are victims of modern slavery, for refugees and asylum seekers, often forced into service. Let *our* service be willing, open-hearted and generous, we pray, as we try to follow in your footsteps and obey your commandment to love one another.

'We lead not by the example of our power, but by the power of our example.' (Joe Biden - first speech as President-elect of the USA, November 2020)

WE SAY THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE SHARE THE GRACE

A FINAL PRAYER

Lord of us all, thank you for inviting us to take a seat at your table of grace. We admit we're a little nervous, though, about the ones we're sitting next to. Some of them make us uncomfortable, especially the ones who remind us of our own bad habits. Like the sons of Zebedee, we'd prefer to be sitting next to you. Forgive us, Lord, when we want to rearrange the place cards, and help us to recognise your presence in all your children. Amen. *(Bonni-Belle Pickard)*