Dear friend
Many thanks to Judith for this week's virtual service.

The hymn/worship song that sprung to both our minds is, 'From heaven you came', sung here by Graham Kendrick himself, with Nicki Rogers:
https://youtu.be/C4FtZ9XzZag

or here's a congregational version from Frodsham Methodist church:
https://youtu.be/R-IxT-2_jRg

Here's, 'In the hollow of his hand', sung and played with gusto by the Melharmonic Virtual Choir, mostly based in Nigeria:
https://youtu.be/yYcik-xGCmc

On the 500th anniversary of the renaissance composer, Josquin des Prez, a brave attempt at his rather minimalistic 24 part motet Qui Habitat (psalm 24) by just 4 singers from the Birmingham Conservatoire – the mixing very nearly works - followed by a multilingual performance of an adaptation by Laurel Macdonald by 24 singers:
https://youtu.be/tfXeDEKgdCM

A meditative worship song from Martin: 'O Praise the Name (anástasis)' - Phil Wickham. An acoustic version of the Hillsong United hit:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5zEQAhWFB8

And as a final voluntary, 'Widor's Toccata' played by 13-year old Casimir Kafling in Sweden (impressive footwork!):
https://youtu.be/QrilfMvPF9M

Enjoy!
Chris

Service sheet for Sunday 19th September - the 16th Sunday after Trinity

Create within us, O God, a longing to obey your commandments and a thankfulness for all your mercies. Let us honour you in the thoughts of our hearts, let us glorify you in the words we speak, and let us magnify you in the things that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *(John Wesley 1703-1791)*

CONFESSION

O blessed Jesus, by the sorrow you suffered when all the powers of your heart failed you, have mercy on us and help us in our days of darkness and in our hours of weakness, that we do not lose hold of you either in this life, or in the life of the world to come; and this we ask for your own name's sake. *(St Bridget of Sweden)*
Lord, when we are in the dark you take us back to the light, when we are lost you make a path for us. Thank you for your love and safe-keeping. Amen
(Isaac and Charlie, primary school children)

COLLECT

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

REFLECTION

Today's reading from Mark's gospel continues the teachings of Jesus which his disciples find both worrying and baffling. He has been presenting them with the prospect of his suffering, while at the same time, they have witnessed great things – not just spectacular healings; three of them have seen Jesus transformed, a vision of glory which they have barely grasped, followed by yet more talk of his future suffering and death. Today's other readings speak of betrayal and retribution, as well as faith in God to deliver and provide safety. This contrast, which is ever-present in the human condition is brought out in James's letter; he doesn't mince his words in condemning the 'disputes and conflicts' engaged in by those to whom he writes. In the gospel reading, we see Jesus, fully aware of his disciples' preoccupations and misunderstandings, use a visual image to show them what he means by 'servanthood' – to be 'last of all'. The status of the child he chooses is lowly, but welcome of such a one implies welcome of Jesus, and therefore of his heavenly Father. Jesus chooses a child to illustrate this message; not, presumably a silent, saintly child, but a normal, feisty being, with a questioning mind, ever curious. That plaintive cry of 'Why', beloved of most red-blooded children, is presumably akin to what Jesus himself said, at the age of twelve, to the teachers in the temple. James writes, 'Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.' We need to know and understand more of Him each day.

PRAYERS

Let the door of our heart be always open to you, O Lord, that we may mark your entrance, embrace your presence, hear your voice, seek your strength and hold fast to you for ever. Amen. (Paul Heath 1599-1643)

We pray for your church throughout the world, that it may share fully in the work of your Son - revealing you to all people and reconciling them to you and to one another, that working together, they may share your peace.

We pray for all places in the world where people suffer, through war, occupation or disaster, thinking especially of Afghanistan, and also for other places which have disappeared from the news, but continue to experience troubles, such as the Tigray province of Ethiopia or the earthquake zone of Haiti.

We pray for the sick and suffering, especially those known to us, who we pray for now in the silence of our hearts……..

We give thanks for your presence in our lives. Help us to share your love with all whom we will meet this week.

We say **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

We share **THE GRACE**

A FINAL PRAYER

O Lord, never suffer us to think that we can stand by ourselves, and not need thee.
(John Donne 1573-1631)

