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

To start with, the hymn 'All things bright and beautiful' to the hymn tune with the same name, from Wallsend Baptist church, N Tyneside:
https://youtu.be/1HyWkC64X08

Or, if you prefer the folk tune Royal Oak, here it is sung by Michael Lining x4:
https://youtu.be/txmpkFSoWuo

John Rutter's chirpy setting of the words:
https://youtu.be/ShpRCvU_bxM

A couple of clips from Martin: 'Fresh Wind' by Hillsong, performed by Christ Community Worship.
A gentle version of the Hillsong lockdown hit:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3i4NqB84zeY

'Beautiful City' from Godspell, sung by Hunter Parrish.
A New Jerusalem has many different spiritual meanings and Stephen Schwartz uses these to give Jesus a new solo song in the revival of Godspell. A song of hope, beautifully sung in this version:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiaSle49Ros

And finally, returning to Rutter, here's a virtual performance of his Clare Benediction, sung and played by students and alumni of Clare College, Cambridge:
https://youtu.be/Mnj8jipLTOI

With every blessing
Chris

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Service for Sunday 5th September:
the 14th Sunday after Trinity

'Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.' *(Ephesians 4: 3-6)*

CONFESSION

God of love, forgive our intolerance towards those of other faiths or none, or our impatience with our neighbour; help us to live the lives we proclaim. *(Faith and Worship)*

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (CW)

COLLECT

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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 35: 4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2: 1-10,14-17; Mark 7:24-end.

REFLECTION It's so easy to read the Bible, and put our own interpretation on familiar passages -maybe another person will look at the same lines in an entirely different light. It would be quite possible to find Jesus's words to the Syrophoenician woman harshly unsympathetic. Read the same passage again, and it's possible to imagine an extraordinary yet simple, spirited discussion between a Jewish man and a Gentile woman. Mark's gospel is known for its deliberate choice of stories, seemingly unrelated, put together for a purpose, so we find the description of the deaf mute man brought to Jesus for healing immediately after the recovery of the woman's daughter. Jesus has moved back from Gentile to Jewish country, and he treats two disparate people with the same clear-cut aid. This passage is used as a demonstration of Jesus's ministry moving out from Israel to the Gentiles; it is clear that his compassion is without borders. James has rather unsympathetic words for those who express their belief in Christ whilst, at the same time shunning people who don't fit in to their chosen lifestyle. It's a sobering thought, which has followed us through generations – something to be remembered as we encounter 'all sorts and conditions'. Jesus has come to fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah, and his love extends to all who will hear and understand.

PRAYERS
'Prayer is living water with which the soul quenches its thirst.' *(John of Kronstadt 1829-1909)*

The Christian Aid prayer for Afghanistan encompasses all our prayers for the world and for each other:

O God of mercy and of peace, we hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan. Be living bread to those who are hungry each day; be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages of pandemic; be their true home to all who have been displaced; be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views; be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow. Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace and open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care. Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people, and hold us all in your unfailing love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to bring life in all its fullness. Amen. *(Ramani Leathard, head of region for SE Asia and Afghanistan)*

- we pray, too, for all those known to us who are in special need at this time……

We say **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

We share **THE GRACE**

A FINAL PRAYER
Lord, we pray for those who have no shelter, education or health care, who have no protection where violence rules or law has broken down. Prosper the work of those who help the homeless, the stateless and the hopeless. Make us, in our turn, ever mindful of those who are different from us, yet remain our brothers and sisters in your sight. Amen. *(Ken Adams)*