Dear friend
I am pleased to enclose this week's virtual service, provided by Judith. she has suggested two hymns on the theme of discipleship.

'Will you come and follow me', to Kelvingrove (appropriately enough, an area of Glasgow), sung with a nice Scotch snap from Liverpool Anglican Cathedral (many versions are rather slow and doleful):
https://youtu.be/pnXOEUS7BBM

and 'Jesus calls us o'er the tumult', sung to St Andrew by the Scottish Festival Singers:
https://youtu.be/CXkCMuG5mUA

Here the words are given a folksy treatment to the tune Restoration by a group from St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Nashville:
https://youtu.be/X3kZlrMyEvE

Another alternative tune by Robbie Kellogg, preceded by some suburban tumult:
https://youtu.be/LtW8OlUDTkE

As we await the outcome of COP26, and pray for the future of our planet, the joyful final chorus of praise from Haydn's oratorio, 'The Creation', sung at the 2004 Southwell music Festival at the Minster:
https://youtu.be/ZIUonav1p5Q

And from Martin, 'What A Beautiful Name it is' / Agnus Dei.
Don't be fooled by the quiet opening, this song builds to a mighty worship song with a wall of sound from the massed choir and band. By Australian praise and worship group Hillsong Worship, the song, written by Brooke Ligertwood and Ben Fielding, refers to the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ as represented by His Holy Name. This version is a medley with Agnus Dei by Michael W. Smith:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diQPE7lYNsQ

With every blessing
Chris

SUNDAY 7th NOVEMBER –
THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Grant us, O Lord, the will to accomplish all that pleases you, the strength to do all that you command and the reverence to respect all that you have made; for your own name's sake. Amen
(Francis of Assisi 1182-1226)

CONFESSION

Lord, you said, "Come", and I walked away. You said, "Follow", and I chose my own way. You said, "Trust", and I turned my back on you. You said, "Hope", and I was full of despair. *(David Clowes)*
May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Common Worship)

COLLECT

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS

Jonah 3:1-5,10; Psalm 62:5-end;
Hebrews 9:24-end; Mark 1:14-20

REFLECTION

It's refreshing, and a bit of a 'prequel' after recent weeks when we have encountered the arguments among the disciples, to be reminded of their initial, instant response to Jesus's call. Those fishermen at the lakeside responded without hesitation to the awe-inspiring impact of Jesus on their lives. Today's readings, taken at face value, might make a new reader feel somewhat inadequate, especially the few verses from Jonah. So, he just went to Nineveh, did he, and gave them God's message? But we know of the previous mess Jonah had made of things when he chose to ignore God's call to him and of his repentance and subsequent obedience. We know too, from what else we read, that the disciples too, don't always find it easy to tread the path Jesus sets out for them. However, we know that they, fallible human beings, do continue on that difficult journey. Failures happen, especially that of Judas Iscariot. The verses from Psalm 62 describe the wondrous love and power of God, yet hidden among them are hints of the pitfalls which may surround any who long to follow him through life. Because of the lovely story of the disciples' eager response to Jesus's call, it's easy to overlook the first verses in the gospel reading where Jesus proclaims the good news: 'The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news.' That's the message we and the disciples hear, and it's powerful enough to go back to, time and time again as a reminder and a simple encouragement to "Follow", wherever we're led.

PRAYERS

We pray for delegates attending the COP 26 conference in Glasgow:
(Prayers by Inderjit Bhogal) -
Creator God, we bless you for the honour you give us by making us in your image and calling us to share in your mission. Forgive us for all the ways in which we assault your image in ourselves, in others and for the damage of our lifestyles on creation around us. We hold in prayer before you those whose lives are at risk from natural and weather-related disasters. We remember especially refugees made homeless by war and violence, with lives additionally in danger from storms, floods, landslides, droughts, wildfires, extreme temperatures and contaminated water. Help us to express our love for you with a deeper respect for our neighbours, and for the created world.
We pray for those who are sick and suffering at this time, especially for…….....
O Christ, your call draws us but never ensnares us; show us what it means to leave self behind and follow you all our days. Teach us to trust you enough to give you everything as raw material for your work of healing and reconciliation in the world; for your love's sake. Amen. *(Angela Ashwin)*

We say THE LORD'S PRAYER
We share THE GRACE

Almighty God…Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen
(From the prayer after Communion, Common Worship)

