Dear friend
I am pleased to enclose the virtual service for this Sunday (Bible Sunday).

For an opening song, ‘As the deer pants’, the popular worship song by Martin Nystrom, sung by Robin Mark with lyrics:
https://youtu.be/FBppKZ0eJlQ

Or an international, multilingual Asian version:
https://youtu.be/KnIYWKfW74E

For Bible Sunday, the traditional hymn, ‘There is a book who runs may read’ (or, as here, ‘that all may read’):
https://youtu.be/eefT6Y3RAXg

For choristers, the Sanctus and Benedictus from Kodaly’s tuneful ‘Missa Brevis’ for choir and organ, with a rolling score:
https://youtu.be/UW35VSq1dD4

A joyful song of thanksgiving from a Roman Catholic church in Nigeria:
https://youtu.be/Oh7FEPkcASo

And finally, from Martin: ‘Peace In Christ’ by Mckenna Hixson.
A lovely new Mormon hymn by Nik Day and Mackenna Hixon that Anglicans can agree with. Watch for the pianist on another planet!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYrm63xCsL8

With every blessing
Chris

VIRTUAL SERVICE 24.10.21
BIBLE SUNDAY (Trinity 21)

Your word is a lantern to my feet, and a light to my path *(Psalm 119.105)*

CONFESSION Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we read your word out of a sense of duty, when we skip over the difficult passages, when we fail to put it into practice, when we distort your teaching to fit our own views. *May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. (Common Worship)*

COLLECT Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; help us so to hear them, to read, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and forever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

READINGS Isaiah 55.1-11, Psalm 19.7-end, 2Timothy 3,14-4.5, John 5.36b-end.

REFLECTION We can easily fall into the trap of remembering our favourite bleeding chunks of the Bible, glossing over the bits we don't understand or find hard to accept. Yet, Paul, writing to the young disciple Timothy, stresses that **all** scripture is "God -breathed" (in Greek, *theo-pneustos*). Paul exhorts Timothy to be on his guard against false teaching, to encourage, correct and rebuke with loving patience. Detailed knowledge of the scriptures is not enough in itself. In today's passage from John's gospel, Jesus is critical of those who knew their scriptures inside out and were quick to condemn anyone who stepped out of line. They worshipped words but were unable to recognize the true Word revealed in him. May we be open to God's word, that we can gain confidence by careful study. May we be prepared to be challenged when our lifestyle falls short of God's benchmark revealed in the totality of scripture. May our reading of scripture equip us better to encourage and support and accept support (and even criticism) from others walking alongside us.

PRAYERS Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. *(Ps19 v14).*

We pray for all who study, teach and interpret the scriptures, for theological colleges and other centres of learning. We pray for the work of the Bible Society, the Bible Reading Fellowship and all organisations involved in making holy scriptures available throughout the world, that all may learn of your Kingdom.

We pray for your Church in this world, that we may work together to study, and to act on, your teachings. Enable us to overcome and understand our differences.

We pray for those who have never been taught about you, or who have rejected your teaching. We pray for those who through self-interest or misguided zeal resort to violence or oppression to achieve their aims. We ask for your forgiveness when we misuse authority or wealth to influence others.

We pray for those who are afflicted in mind, body or spirit, asking that you will comfort and strengthen them. Especially, we remember before you…….

Lord, let not your word become a judgement upon us, lest we hear it and do not do it, or believe it and do not obey it. *(Thomas à Kempis).*

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

FINAL PRAYER O Lord, you have given us your word for a light to shine upon our path, inspire us to meditate on that word and to follow its teaching, that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *(St Jerome)*