Dear friends
We have been very pleased to welcome Rev Guy to our Benefice on Monday, and wish him and his family well.

This week's hymn (with lyrics) is 'O for a thousand tongues to sing', Charles Wesley's triumphant hymn of praise sung to Lyngham in a Songs of Praise recording:
https://youtu.be/X-dEfvz6Vms

Here's Graham Kendrick's take on the same words:
https://youtu.be/cvNJCkmeLRk

and here's his nice gospel-like setting, sung by a virtual choir, of 'A little love', which he wrote in response to problems with his local foodbank, and which he hopes will be sung to raise funds for worthy charities which have had problems raising funds during lockdown:
https://youtu.be/auwgDr2BA7E

Today's psalm is 19. Haydn famously set the first verse in his Oratorio, The Creation. 'The heavens are telling' is popular amongst choral societies, but often can seem a bit leaden. This bright and breezy rendition is given by the choir of New College Oxford with top-notch soloists and the Academy of Ancient Music conducted by Christopher Hogwood:
https://youtu.be/p4lSauxyFWo

A nice summary for kids of all ages of our reading from 1 Corinthians:
https://youtu.be/evRQUxzn8qA

Marty Haughen's gentle interpretation of this passage:
https://youtu.be/q77uRQxKDCY

Enjoy!
Chris

VIRTUAL SERVICE 23.01.22
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:….a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. *(Ecclesiastes 3.1,4)*

CONFESSION Forgive us, Lord, when we do not devote enough time to reading the scriptures, when we skip over difficult bits, when we are easily distracted by other things, when we fail to act on what we have read. *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 God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence; renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 forever.

READINGS Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10, 1Corinthians 12.12-31a.

REFLECTION In this passage from Nehemiah, the walls of Jerusalem had been rebuilt; it was now the time for Ezra and others to rebuild the dwindling faith of the community. After listening carefully to the scriptures and realizing how they had failed the Lord, the people were reduced to tears; similarly, we can be disheartened at the many times we let God down. Yet Nehemiah did not want to leave them tearful but encouraged them to party! We too can rejoice that Jesus is our Saviour, that he came to bring good news to the poor and set us free from our sins.
The lectionary omits the lists of all those who helped Ezra and Nehemiah teach the Law, yet each one was an essential part of the process. Could we put our names in that list? Paul describes each one of us as part of Christ's body, with different but equally vital roles, with Jesus as our head. Some of us may be called to leadership, but again there may be times when we should step back and support the leadership of others. Our role may seem humdrum at times but it is no less precious in God's service. As George Herbert put it "Who sweeps a room, as for thy laws, makes that and the action fine". Through prayer and reading the scriptures may we be guided to find how we can best serve our Servant King.



PRAYERS We give you thanks, Lord, for the intricate beauty and majesty of your created universe, for the delicate balance of animals and plants on this fragile planet; teach us to treat it gently as its stewards.

We praise and thank you for the love of families and friends, and above all for your gracious love that you gave your life for us and sent us the gift of your Holy Spirit.

We pray for your church here on earth, especially asking for your blessing on Guy as he begins his ministry among us. May your Holy Spirit enable us to support him prayerfully in his work of mission, as fellow members of Christ's body.

Bring the peace of your kingdom to warring nations and to all who are caught up in conflict or who live with the fear of unrest.

Wounded Lord, we bring to your loving arms those known to us who are sick in mind, body or spirit, for those affected by natural or man-made disaster, for those in chronic physical or mental pain, those who mourn loved ones. Especially we pray for……

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

FINAL PRAYER Descend, Holy Spirit of life! Come down into our hearts that we may live. Descend into emptiness, that emptiness may be filled. Descend into the dust, that the dust may flower. Descend into the dark, that the light may shine in the darkness.
Caryll Houselander.