Dear friend,
Herewith this week's virtual service.

'When I survey the wondrous cross' is probably my favourite hymn of all. Isaac Watts' poem, based on St Paul's writings, is framed perfectly by the tune Rockingham, here courtesy of Chet Valley churches.
https://youtu.be/2MF9tVfTMXs

Here is that great Methodist stalwart 'Blessed Assurance', by the American hymn writer Fanny Crosby, given new life by Celtic Worship.
https://youtu.be/LOuw3rLY7Zg

The famous but challenging prayer "Let nothing trouble you, let nothing frighten you, all things pass away but God is unchanging. Patience obtains all things. They who have God lack nothing, God alone is enough" is attributed to St Teresa of Avila; it was found, in her handwriting, in her breviary after her death. Here is an attractive setting by the fine baritone Roderick Williams, sung by the Trinity Laban Conservatoire choir at the Old Royal Naval College Chapel, directed by Ralph Allwood. If you have time, it's well worth listening to some of Williams' other sacred pieces that follow.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tooVeYx237Y&list=OLAK5uy_lIxWtm4eJNHmhKwMJ8sHFHrZtJLlum798&index=1

From Martin, a celebratory worship song, 'This Is Amazing Grace' by Phil Wickham, cover by Venture Worship featuring Lexi Eller. A new hymn with words on screen
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNPsBguVKC4

Finally, for fans of organ music, a tribute to the remarkable Francis Jackson, Emeritus organist at York Minster, who died on 3rd February. This video of his organ music in a variety of styles was compiled to celebrate his birthday last October (at the tender age of 104!). RIP.
https://youtu.be/Ka89o7lEwFg

Enjoy!
Chris

VIRTUAL SERVICE 13.02.22
THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT



Gisele Bauche

Disturbing God, you identify with the weak and powerless, and surprise us as we seek to do your will. Help us to find true hope in the now of our action rather than in the distant future of our longing. *Joy Tetley*.

CONFESSION O God, you are the King and Judge of all the earth. altogether good and altogether pure. We are stained with sin, lost in error, sunk in failure. If you were to give us what we deserve, we could expect nothing but condemnation, nothing but punishment… Take us just as we are, forgive us for the past and recreate us for the future. *William Barclay. Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will, and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.* *Common Worship.*

COLLECT Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity; give your people grace so as to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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.

READING Luke 6.17-26

REFLECTION The passage from Luke is very similar to the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5.3-12), but there are differences. Here, Jesus is mingling with the crowd, at their level; his message is more hard-hitting, including "woes" as well as blessings. The topsy-turvy nature of God's Kingdom is presented more starkly, as in Mary's song, the Magnificat. The poor are blessed, the hungry filled, a challenge to us who are rich and never feel real hunger. Our danger is that we can be possessed by our possessions and dominated by a desire to succeed in our work and to be popular. A WHO quality of life survey compared quality of life in subsistence farmers in rural Ethiopia and stockbrokers in Surrey. You can guess who scored better in all measures. As St Basil put it, "the more you abound in wealth, the more you lack in love". Jesus warns that his followers will be ridiculed and reviled. This revolutionary message is a major threat to totalitarian regimes; in North Korea over 50,000 are imprisoned for professing faith or even possessing a bible.

PRAYERS Lord, we praise and thank you for the beauty and intricacy of your created world; help us to treat it gently and not despoil it. Grant us generosity of spirit; empower us to share the many good things we have received from you, not to keep them for ourselves. We pray for those who are poor, the hungry, refugees and homeless; may we show your love to them and help us to learn from them. Enlighten those who feel they have to govern by force or coercion, who feel that violence and oppression will achieve their aims. We pray for all who are sick or distressed, that they may be comforted by your loving arms. Especially we pray for… …

We say the **LORD'S PRAYER**

We share **THE GRACE** ✝

FINAL PRAYER *(Masai people, Tanzania,adapted)* For your blessing we thank you, God. Increase our faith in you so that we no longer doubt. Drive out all our miserliness, so that we do not refuse you anything. Make us instruments of your faith, for those with only a little. In your hands we place ourselves and are secure. Make haste to enter our hearts, make haste.