

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Chers toutes et tous,

I hope your start to the week has been good - from some of your responses I gather that many of you could indeed do with a more positive week. Please know that I will be thinking of you and that you are always in my prayers!

Here is a question that I have been struggling with for the past few weeks courtesy of my theological training course with the Eastern Region Ministry Course (ERMC).

This term I am doing a module on Christian Ethics and the, very good, lecturer has chosen the issue of bio-engineering, for example genome-editing in humans and the question of "trans-humanism".

I have to say I naturally tend to a position that looks with suspicion on anything that interferes "too much" with nature. You see, I am aware that this "too much" needs defining. One of my fellow students, a scientist, pointed out that I should maybe join the Amish people... or would I still want to "interfere" with surgery, medication, life-support etc ?

Well, you have read about our Husky (still no news by the way) - and clearly, I am only too happy to "interfere" by having her leg amputated...

What to make of this? What do you think?  
What could "trans-humanism" look like?

When I read the latest news and reflect on the history of colonialism, slavery, concentration camps, and have to recognize that all this is by far not in the past, then I am asking myself whether we have actually still to fully grasp what being "human" means - before we can (sur)pass our "humanness".

I had fervently hoped to find something in the readings of this Morning Prayer that I could quote here - but no easy way out today -or is there?

For I read: "That you may tell those who come after, that such is our God for ever and ever. It is He that shall be our guide for evermore." (Ps 48.13).

By the way, Elgar's rendering of this psalm is one of my favourite choir anthems.  
And instead of a joke (I am running out, please help!),  
I give you today the Westminster Abbey choir with Elgar's "Great is the Lord":  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2kWjAKjxol>

With kind regards,

bonne journée und bis morgen,

Julia