

Harvest ... on Sunday 4th October With a Spiritual Communion

CALL TO WORSHIP *Adapted from Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-9*

Reader: All who are thirsty

All: **come to the water!**

Reader: You who have no money come, buy and eat!

All: **Buy wine and milk,
without money, without price.**

Reader: Why spend your money
on things that will not nourish you?

All: **Why work for things
that will leave you unsatisfied?**

Reader: Listen to God, and you will eat well.

All: **Come to God, you will be richly fed!**

Reader: If you are searching for God—
if you have something to ask—

All: **Speak now, for God is here!**

Reader: If you have done wrong—
if you are burdened by guilty thoughts—

All: **Come back! God is quick to forgive!**

Reader: For God's thoughts are not our thoughts.

All: **God's ways are not our ways.**

Reader: As high as the heavens are above the earth—

**All: So great is God's loving kindness toward those
 who turn to him.**

Let us offer our Harvest gifts
All As the sign of our home coming;
**in thanksgiving for all God's gifts and in our desire
to live new, generous lives . . .**

Penitential Rite

As we come to worship, let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor, and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

God has blessed us,
but still God's children go hungry.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

God has blessed us,
but still the poor cry out for justice.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

God has blessed us,
but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins
Heal and strengthen us by his Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord
Amen.

Gloria for today

Lord, we praise you for the harvest of the fields around us
For fields of wheat and barley;
for oil-seed rape and maize...

We give you thanks and praise

For healthy herds,
for sheep and pigs...

We give you thanks and praise

For the harvest of local hedgerows,
for the straggling bramble;
for black showers of elderberry...

We give you thanks and praise

We praise you for the harvest of gardens and allotments;
For earthy roots, and leafy cabbage,
for hanging beans and striped courgettes...

We give you thanks and praise

For all who cooperate and collaborate with You
to bring food to our tables,
For farmers, growers,
for breeders, shepherds and dairy-farmers
For packers and processors,
For distributors, hauliers, retailers and stall-holders,
for chefs and cooks...

We give you thanks and praise

Lord we dedicate this festival
of harvest thanksgiving to you.

We give you thanks and praise. Amen

*Based on a prayer by The Reverend Rachel Parkinson,
Northallerton*

Collect:

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need
and for our own well-being;
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 for ever. Amen

1st Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10 New Living Translation

6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. **7** You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."
8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. **9** As the Scriptures say,
 "They share freely and give generously to the poor.
 Their good deeds will be remembered forever."
10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Response:

**For the fruits of his creation
thanks be to God;
for his gifts to every nation
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe keeping,
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.** *Fred Pratt Green*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 12:16-30 New Living Translation

16 Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. **17** He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' **18** Then he said, 'I

know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods.

19 And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

21 "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

Teaching about Money and Possessions

22 Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. **23** For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. **24** Look

at the ravens. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! **25** Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? **26** And if worry can't accomplish a little thing like that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things?

27 "Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. **28** And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

29 "And don't be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don't worry about such things. **30** These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs.

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This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon -

Most of us who eat... and eat a variety of foods... often three times a day... We eat foods that have been ploughed and sown and watered and grown, and harvested and prepared for us by others. The work of growing and harvesting our food is in fact (for the most part) done for us by others .. (Although I believe interest in gardens and allotments etc has gone up considerably in this Covid time.)

We do not plough, or sow or reap but we do expect to eat - (like the friends of the Little Red Hen - a fun cautionary tale!)

I am not saying that we do not work to earn the money we spend on the food we buy from our supermarkets but we do not directly depend on this or any harvest for our food. Many things buffer us from the effects of a poor harvest here or there. Floods here or drought there just mean that you and I buy our crops from somewhere where the harvest has been successful. It may cost a bit more, but we rarely if ever have to go without! And we can always buy dried or frozen, or bottled or tinned. Doing without is rarely the bottom line for us.

Of course there are those around us - even in our own village or town who are regularly hungry and we can support them by giving to the Need Project - now at harvest time, but year round too!

And there are the many ***people who grow our food and their own*** - who depend on a good harvest this year and every year - for food to last them through the winter - to keep a roof over their heads - so that their children will grow strong and healthy - to buy school books and school uniforms for their

children - to purchase the health care that they need for themselves and their children.

Not only do we not plough or sow or reap for our food but there is evidence that the way we choose to live is making it more difficult year on year, for them to grow our food and their own. Sometimes this is through natural disasters like earthquakes - but sin is not absent as a factor here. Our lack of care for God's earth... our wasteful use of resources... our waste of energy... our waste!... The people who share our planet are reaping the consequences of our thoughtlessness, and often much more rapidly than we are..

Of this year's Harvest Appeal Bishop Alan writes:

"It's only five years since Nepal suffered two major earthquakes, devastating lives, infrastructures and livelihoods. Like many people there, Manish – a husband, father and pastor – struggled to recover from the devastation caused, especially as the village's water supply was severely damaged. Families were forced to make four trips a day to neighbouring villages to collect enough water to drink and wash, leaving little time or energy for their normal farming work. As result, this farming community was in dire need of extra income to feed and provide for families.

Beekeeping was the solution. With the benefits of training offered through the local church, Manish and his family's lives have been transformed through beekeeping. The approach of this training programme, Church and Community Mobilisation (CCM), is to assess what resources are readily available to a community (for example, land, livestock) and use these to

implement a plan out of poverty. In this case the answer was bees.

Before the earthquakes, Manish had an interest in beekeeping and owned a beehive. With the support of CCM training, Manish saw the potential to generate new income for his family, and quickly expanded from owning one to six beehives. He learnt how to look after the bees properly, and began to sell organic honey, candle wax and other bee-related products.

Encouraged and motivated, Manish is growing his beekeeping activity and now runs a successful business. He keenly passes on what he has learnt and encourages others in his community to get involved and work together. Manish's faith in God and entrepreneurial attitude have inspired many other people to build a sustainable livelihood for their own future, too.

This year, with your support, around 900 people can be helped to rebuild their lives through beekeeping businesses. Bees are an important part of our natural world, particularly now in Nepal, where communities are still recovering from the tragic earthquakes, and with concerns of climate change, deforestation and the need for pollinators, bees are a very valuable commodity. Will you help other Nepalese people, like Manish and his family, this Harvest?"

As the Scriptures say,

*"They share freely and give generously to the poor.
Their good deeds will be remembered forever."*

Will you help?

Our response: A Spiritual Communion

This is the Lord's table.

The Lord Jesus invites us to share this joyful feast.

From east and west, from north and south,
people will come and take their places
at the banquet in the kingdom of God.

(Luke 13:29). Common Order

Surely we cannot share at this table - if we can choose to
leave others hungry!

As we break our bread together and apart this morning we
look forward with hope to the time again soon - when as his
people we may share with joy and thanksgiving in our family
meal, our holy communion - one bread and one cup.

*(we suggest taking half / some of your piece of bread yourself
- and feeding the rest to the birds - 'missing one another' until
that time when we can celebrate communion together in our
churches)*

I eat this *(unconsecrated)* bread as a sign that
I am asking you to come again into my heart.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen**

(pause to make your communion)

Post spiritual-communion prayer.

Lord of the harvest,
with joy we have offered thanksgiving
for your love in creation
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us
a reverence for all that you give us
and make us generous and wise stewards
of the good things we enjoy;
Lord we ask that our communion with you
- make us hungrier for justice for all...
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response.

**Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field,
praise God for the people who gather their yield,
the long hours of labour, the skills of a team,
the patience of science, the power of machine.**

**Praise God for the harvest of science and skill,
the urge to discover, create and fulfil:
for dreams and inventions that promise to gain
a future more hopeful, a world more humane.**

**Praise God for the harvest of mercy and love
for leaders and peoples who struggle and serve
with patience and kindness, that all may be led
to freedom and justice, and all may be fed.**

Brian Wren 1936b © Stainer & Bell Ltd

Our Declaration of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God -

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Intercessions: Prepared and led for us by Dawn and Tabitha Abbatt

Let us pray to God,
that he will bring to be all that is good for his creation.
Loving God, you have created a wonderful world,
We pray that we may share and conserve the earth's
resources; that we may live in reverence for your creation
and in harmony with one another.

1. Creator God, for daily bread
and all who work to make our food
we bring our thanks today.

In your mercy Lord **Hear our prayer**

2. Lord we pray for our farmers,
Thanks to them our harvest is safely gathered,
Thank you for the wheat to make our biscuits,
Keep them safe, protect the new seeds they sow
Help our world to value and respect them,
and treat them fairly.
Help us to give, and not just take.
In your mercy Lord **Hear our prayer**

3. We pray for those whose harvest is poor,
whose crops have withered,
and whose children are hungry...
We pray:
help them
help those who help them
In your mercy Lord **Hear our prayer**

4. Make us generous with all that we have
so that all your people may share the good things of the earth
In your mercy Lord **Hear our prayer**

5. Bless those who are peacemakers
All who long to see people from all creeds and cultures
Live together as one community –
Bless and strengthen those who work to serve our community
and our church let their work be a light to others.
In your mercy Lord **Hear our prayer**

6. Bless those who are good friends
A willing ear to listen
When life is difficult....
Bless those who are healers
Of sickness, physical injury

And deeper hurts....

Send your healing for those who are sick or have asked for our prayers.

In your mercy Lord **Hear our prayer**

6. We pray for those who have died and gone before us
In the hope of eternal life.

And we pray for those who mourn them.

Just as we gather in the harvest, you have gathered them to be with you

In your mercy Lord **Hear our prayer**

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything your goodness sends
We give you thanks O Lord.

**Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your
Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Let's pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Notices and Birthdays

The BLESSING and SENDING

May we be so transformed by our worship today
That God's love and God's warmth,
God's joy and God's generosity
Show forth in our daily lives, today and everyday
And the blessing of God almighty

Freely you have received, freely give.
Tend the earth, care for God's good creation
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in peace to love and serve the LORD.
In the name of Christ **Amen**

Final acclamation:

We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
**but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand.**
He sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
**the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.**

*All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.*

He only is the Maker
of all things near and far;
**he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;**
the wind and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
**much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread.** [Refrain]

We thank you, then, O Father,
for all things bright and good:
**the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food;**
no gifts have we to offer
for all your love imparts,
**but that which you desire now:
our humble, thankful hearts!** [Refrain]

Matthias Claudius 1740-181

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Harvest is for sharing.
Autumn time is yellow and brown.
Ripened, juicy fruits.
Vegetables, sweet and juicy.
Everybody shares the food.
Sun helping plants to grow.
Thank you for the harvest.

By Niamh and friends

Harvest festival is sharing everything.
All farmers working hard on the huge, busy farms.
Ripened, juicy, yummy fruit and vegetables in the sun.
Vegetables are growing quickly.
Everyone is kind to each other.
Sharing vegetables and fruit kindly.
Thank you for the delicious food.

By Karolina

H

A

R

V

E

S

T

Fruit and Veg A-Z

One for each letter?

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

Huckleberry (blueberry)

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

P

Quince

R

S

T

U

V

W

Xigua (watermelon)

Y

Zucchini (courgette)