



## Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 21

*Do join in the worship before the service begins – words on back page of leaflet*

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you. **And also with you.**

God the Maker, maker of colour, sound, texture, quietness and the restless beauty in living things.

**We bless you.**

God the Maker, maker of stone and mustard seed, of grey cloud and starlight, of roaring sea and heartbeat.

**We bless you**

God the Maker, maker of all that is unseen, of all that has been, of all that words could never capture.

**We bless you.**

God our Maker, we, the children of your love, the creatures of your kindness, the guardians of your creation.

**We bless you for your making, your trusting, your loving, your never-ending goodness, Amen.**

### Hymn

All creatures of our God and King

Lift up your voice and with us sing: Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,

Thou silver moon with softer gleam:

*O praise Him, O praise Him, Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Earth ever fertile, day by day

Bring forth your blessings on our way, Hallelujah, hallelujah!

All fruit and crops that richly grow,

All trees and flowers God's glory show;

*O praise Him, O praise Him, Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness, O praise Him, hallelujah!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:  
*O praise Him, O praise Him, Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

### **Symbols of Harvest –**

*We bring soil and water forward*

Almighty God, you have given us all that we need for life and for living.  
Thank you for the earth, and for the rain and rivers and sea  
you have given us. Help us to respect the wonderful world we live in. **Amen**

*We bring bread and grain forward*

Almighty God, it may be us who scatter the seeds on the land, it may be us  
who tend and care for them; without your help they would lie barren  
and dead. Thank you for the grain to make our daily bread. **Amen**

*We bring fruit and vegetables forward.*

Almighty God, you have provided for us an abundance of good food.  
Thank you for the variety and freshness of all that we are able to enjoy  
each day, and for the people that make that possible. **Amen**

### **Bible Reading** Genesis 1:1-5 and 24-31

### **Talk – Ruth**

### **Hymn** *as we bring forwards any gifts we have for the Community Larder*

For the fruit of all 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 safekeeping  
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

For the harvests of the Spirit-Thanks be to God  
For the good we all inherit-Thanks be to God  
For the wonders that astound us  
For the truths that still confound us  
Most of all that love has found us  
Thanks be to God

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## **Confession**

We take time to consider the things that are wrong in our lives  
and in our world and confess our sin, and the sins of our society...  
our greed, our lack of care, our pride...

God our Father, we are sorry for the times when  
we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully.  
Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget  
that you have given them to us.  
Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,  
but often ignore the cry of the hungry.  
Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone,  
as if there were no God and no heaven.  
Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

## **Psalm 65**

<sup>1</sup> Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion;  
to you our vows will be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup> *You who answer prayer,  
to you all people will come.*

<sup>3</sup> When we were overwhelmed by sins,  
you forgave our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup> *Blessed are those you choose  
and bring near to live in your courts!*

We are filled with the good things of your house,  
of your holy temple.

<sup>5</sup> *You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds,  
God our Saviour,  
the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the farthest seas,*

<sup>6</sup> *who formed the mountains by your power,  
having armed yourself with strength,*

<sup>7</sup> *who stilled the roaring of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves,  
and the turmoil of the nations.*

<sup>8</sup> *The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;  
where morning dawns, where evening fades,  
you call forth songs of joy.*

<sup>9</sup> *You care for the land and water it;  
you enrich it abundantly.*

*The streams of God are filled with water  
to provide the people with corn,  
for so you have ordained it.*

<sup>10</sup> *You drench its furrows and level its ridges;  
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.*

<sup>11</sup> *You crown the year with your bounty,  
and your carts overflow with abundance.*

<sup>12</sup> *The grasslands of the wilderness overflow;  
the hills are clothed with gladness.*

<sup>13</sup> *The meadows are covered with flocks  
and the valleys are mantled with corn;  
they shout for joy and sing.*

## **Hymn**

We eat the plants that grow from the seed

But it's God who gives the harvest.

Cures can be made from herbs and from weeds,

but it's God who gives the harvest.

Everything beneath the sun, all the things we claim we've done,  
all are part of God's creation.

We can meet people's needs with things we grow from seed,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.

We find the iron and turn it into steel  
but it's God who gives the harvest  
We pull the levers, we turn the wheels  
but it's God who gives the harvest  
Everything we say we've made plastic bags to metal spades,  
all are part of God's creation.  
We can make lots of things from microphones to springs  
but it's God who gives the harvest.

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### **Prayers including The Lord's Prayer**

**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 for ever. Amen.**

### **We affirm our faith**

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.**

## Closing Prayer (*Based on Proverbs 13:23*)

**Lord God, in the fields of the poor  
even when abundant fruits ripen,  
injustice sweeps them away, and families hunger.  
Help us to share the fruits of your bounty  
So that everyone may benefit from your gracious gifts. Amen.**

## Hymn

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 for all to share;  
we ask you, Lord, to help us strive for justice everywhere.*

He only is the Maker of all things near and far  
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star  
The winds and waves obey Him, by Him the birds are fed  
Much more to us His children He gives our daily bread

We thank Thee 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 Thy love imparts  
But that which Thou desirest our humble thankful hearts.

## Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
source of all goodness and growth,  
pour his blessing upon you that you may be fruitful in His service,  
and the blessing....

*Thanks for joining the worship today*

## **Worship before the service:**

Who can know the mind of our Creator  
Who can speak of wonders yet unseen  
Who can reach the height of understanding  
To play the notes of wisdom's melody

Who has weighed the dust of ev'ry mountain  
Who has walked the myst'ries of the deep  
Who has laid the earth on its foundation  
And who conducts the waves upon the sea

I stand in awe of You  
I stand in awe of You  
So glorious and true  
I stand in awe I stand in awe

You have seen the end from the beginning  
You have been before the world began  
You have reached to me within my darkness  
And in the light of mercy now I see

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If you'd like to explore the Christian faith,  
or have a refresher of the basics,  
do join the Alpha Course – starts this week – Wednesday  
afternoons in person – or Thursday evenings on zoom.

