

A Service for Harvest



St Laurence Church, Downton

4 October 2020

Preparation

Call to Worship

The earth has yielded its harvest;
God, our God, has blessed us.

We will celebrate and praise you Lord!
You are good to us, and your love never fails.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Team Rector introduces the service

Hymn: We plough the fields and scatter
(Chet Valley Churches)

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.

All good gifts around us..

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 desire now: our humble, thankful hearts!

All good gifts around us

Matthias Claudius (1740-1815), translated Jane Montgomery Campbell (1817-1878)

Gathering:

In the fading of the summer sun,
the shortening of days, cooling breeze,
swallows' flight and moonlight rays

We see the creator's hand.

In the browning of leaves once green,
morning mists, autumn chill,
fruit that falls, frost's first kiss

We see the creator's hand.

Thanksgiving:

God we thank you for your harvest
which feeds us so many times each day.

We are nourished with your forgiveness and hope

We are sustained with your strength and patience

We are filled with your grace and compassion

God we thank you for feeding us
with a harvest of plenty

We are restored through your generosity and healing

We are replenished with your abundance and joy

We are reminded of your selfless abandon

God we thank you for feeding us
with the bread of heaven

Your gift of Christ sustains our lives

His presence restores the promise of your love

His life fills our hearts with your everlasting light

God we thank you too for filling us
with the water of life

May we drink deeply that our thirst may be quenched

May your river continue to flow

Over us, in us, through us

And out into the world you love.

Christine Sine

Prayer:

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude,
the spiritual blindness that prevents us
from appreciating the wonder that is this world,
the endless cycle of nature,
of life and death and rebirth.

Forgive us for taking without giving
reaping without sowing.

Open our eyes to see
our lips to praise, our hands to share
May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread
and our footsteps be worthy of following
for they lead to you.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings:

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Matthew 13:3-10,18-23

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Music: Thou Visitest the Earth
(Choir of New College Oxford)

Prayers

We are led in a time of prayer

This response is used:

Lord of all life,
Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is said:

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Conclusion

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God
we offer you our hearty thanks
for your fatherly goodness and care
in giving us the fruits of the earth in their seasons.
Give us grace to use them rightly,
to your glory,
for our own well-being,
and for the relief of those in need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing:

God the Father, who created the world,
give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.

God the Son, who redeemed the world,
inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest.

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation,
help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace.

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest
to send out labourers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:37-38

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

