



Harvest Festival Service

A special welcome to all who have joined us today for our special Harvest

Welcome

Opening Verse

The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it *Psalm 24.1*

Please join in words in bold type

Introduction

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

You visit the earth and water it;
you make it very plenteous.

You soften the ground with showers;
and bless the increase of it.

You crown the year with your goodness;
and your paths overflow with plenty.

The meadows are clothed with sheep;
**the valleys stand so thick with corn,
they shout for joy and sing.**

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

Psalm 65.8,10,11,13; 67.7

Hymn

Come ye thankful people come

Confession

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.**

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's creation. God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully.
Hear our prayer, and 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 ignore the cry of the hungry. Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made. 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.**

The minister will proclaim the words of forgiveness.

Offering

If you are a tax payer please use Gift Aid envelopes to enable us to reclaim tax. Thank you to those who have presented their gifts by standing order, through the bank, or envelopes. Please stand as the Offering is brought forward.

Dear Lord, the gifts of the harvest are yours. May we use them wisely to your glory and for the relief of the suffering, as well as for our own needs.

Hymn - Praise God for the Harvest

Thanksgiving Prayer

Let us give thanks to God, the God of all peoples of the earth.

For the colour and forms of your creation and our place within it, we bring our thanks, good Lord: **All your mercy endures for ever.**

For our daily food, and for those whose work and skill bring your good gifts to us, we bring our thanks, good Lord:
Your mercy endures for ever.

For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts; for insight and imagination, for the skills of research which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many; we bring our thanks, good Lord:
Your mercy endures for ever.

For the light and shades of the changing seasons, and their variety and dependability; for new life and growth out of barrenness and decay; we bring our thanks, good Lord:
Your mercy endures for ever.

For new hope and strength in our communities, especially in your Church and among all you call to serve you, we bring our thanks, good Lord;
Your mercy endures for ever.

For all in whose lives we see goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and humility, and all the fruit of the Spirit, we bring our thanks, good Lord:
Your mercy endures for ever.

For the life we have been given, and for all those whom you have given us to share it, we bring our thanks, good Lord:
Your mercy endures for ever.

Collect Prayer

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you 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, Amen

Bible Readings

The readings may be followed in Partnership News

At the end of each reading

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn - Autumn Days

Address

Hymn - O Lord my God

The Prayers

Minister Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

At the end of our prayers we say The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which 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. 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.**

Hymn - We plough the fields

The Blessing

Freely you have received, freely give.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

