

A Service of the Word for Harvest

Words of Welcome and Opening Prayer

**Lord, direct our thoughts, help us to pray,
And lift up thankful hearts to worship you in Spirit and truth,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Opening Hymn: 37 Come Ye Thankful People, Come

1 Come, ye thankful people, come
Raise the song of harvest home
All is safely gathered in
Ere the winter storms begin
God our Maker doth provide
For our wants to be supplied
Come to God's own temple, come
Raise the song of harvest home

2 All the world is God's own field
Fruit unto his praise to yield
Wheat and tares together sown
Unto joy or sorrow grown
First the blade and then the ear
Then the full corn shall appear
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be

3 For the Lord our God shall come
And shall take his harvest home
From his field shall in that day
All offences purge away
Give his angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast
But the fruitful ears to store
In his garner evermore

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come
To thy final harvest home
Gather thou thy people in
Free from sorrow, free from sin
There, forever purified
In thy presence to abide
Come, with all Thine angels, come
Raise the glorious harvest home

This is the day that the Lord has made:

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things:

Let it be known in all the world.

The Lord is our light and our life:

Come, let us worship.

Let us praise God for his mercy.

And give thanks to him for his goodness.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen

The 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 our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Joel 2: 21-27

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel:

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 126

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, ♦
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter ♦
and our tongue with songs of joy.
- 3 Then said they among the nations, ♦
‘The Lord has done great things for them.’
- 4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us, ♦
and therefore we rejoiced.
- 5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, ♦
as the river beds of the desert.
- 6 Those who sow in tears ♦
shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, ♦
will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2: 1-7

A Reading from Paul’s First Letter to Timothy:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.

This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn:43 Holy Is The Seed Time

1.Holy is the seed-time, when the buried grain
Sinks to sleep in darkness, but to wake again.
Holy is the spring-time, when the living corn,
Bursting from its prison, rises like the morn.

2.Holy is the harvest, when each ripened ear,
Bends before the blade and crowns the golden year;
Store them in our garner; winnow them with care;
Give to God the glory in our praise and prayer.

3.Holy seed our Master sows throughout His field;
Be the harvest holy which our hearts shall yield;
Quickened by His Spirit, strengthened by his grace,
Till in risen splendour we behold his face,

4.Glory to the Father, who has seen our need;
Glory to the Saviour, who has sown the seed;
Glory to the Spirit, giving the increase;
Glory, as it has been, is, and shall not cease!

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6: 25-33

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew:

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?’

Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Guest Speaker: Ms. Dee Huddleston, Christian Aid

Hymn 47 - We Plough the Fields and Scatter

1 We plow 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.

2 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.

3 We thank you then, O Father,
For all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food;
Accept the gifts we offer
For all Thy love imparts,
And that which you most welcome
Our humble, thankful hearts.

Prayers and Thanksgivings

Generous God, At this harvest time we thank you for all the good things you give us. As we thank you for our food, we remember all those who do not have enough for even one proper meal each day. Lord, Bless all those who suffer because of the greed of others. We pray for the homeless, and those who depend on the charity of others. We pray for the work of local foodbanks and volunteers, providing food for those in need. We pray also for the work of Christian Aid and its partners around the globe. Help us to share the harvests of the world more fairly, so everyone can be fed and there will be no more starvation or injustice.

Lord of the harvest:

hear our prayer

At this harvest time, we thank you for the hard work of all those who grow, protect and prepare our food; for the shopkeepers, the transport delivery drivers, the processors and the farmers. Bless all those, Lord, who do not earn a fair day's pay for their hard work, both at home and in other countries. Help us to want to buy local produce and fairly traded goods wherever we can so that everyone can work with dignity and there will be no more poverty.

Lord of the harvest:

hear our prayer

At this harvest time we thank you for the world we see around us; For the flowers, the trees and the animals. Bless all those who care for them, Lord. Help us to protect your creation by being careful about how we use your resources, so that there will be clean water, clean air and plenty of wild birds, mammals and insects to maintain the ecological balance of our countryside.

Lord of the harvest:

hear our prayer

We give thanks for all that is good in your creation and all who bring in the harvest of the sea and the land. We are conscious of so much that we get wrong. So we give thanks too, for your grace and patience with us, when we fail to look after your world as we should. Help us to change so that we too become a new creation walking in the light of your Gospel.

Lord of the harvest:

hear our prayer

At this harvest time we ask for your blessing on our families, friends and neighbours, and on those who are sick. We remember with thanksgiving those whose lives have been gathered in to your presence, whose work here is done. Help us to recognise the interdependence of all of life and the importance of just relations and community, and help us become good stewards of all you continue to give us.

Lord of the harvest:

hear our prayer

Source of all life, and giver of all that is good, hear our prayers and grant us all that is in accordance with your will;

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

Summing up all our prayers and praises into one we pray

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.

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen**

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

The Lord Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit guard you, save you and bring you to the heavenly city where he lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 361- Now Thank we all our God

1 Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
in Whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 O, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills
in this world and the next

3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him Who reigns
with Them in highest Heaven—
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and Heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.