

HARVEST FESTIVAL



Welcome:

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.
Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
Sing and praise your God and mine!
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,
Might and majesty divine!
He who framed the starry heavens
Knows and names them as they shine
Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
Sing and praise your God and mine!

Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!
Wounded souls his comfort know.
Those who fear him find his mercies,
Peace for pain and joy for woe;
Humble hearts are high exalted,
Human pride and power laid low.
Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!
Wounded souls his comfort know.

Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
Cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;
Spring to melt the snows of winter
Till the waters flow again;
Grass upon the mountain pastures,

Golden valleys thick with grain.
Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
Cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
Peace and plenty crown your days!
Love his laws, declare his judgements,
Walk in all his words and ways;
He the Lord and we his children,
Praise the Lord, all people, praise!
Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
Peace and plenty crown your days!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926)

Introduction: Tools of the Trade



Signing the Declaration

A Prayer for our Neighbours

All-loving, ever-present God,
We pray for our neighbours –
for the people we know and love,
and for the people we have never met.

We pray for our neighbours –
for the people across the street,
and for the people on the other side of the world.

We pray for our neighbours –
for the people who look and sound like us,
and for the people who couldn't be more different.

We pray for our neighbours –
for everyone who is struggling,
for everyone who is being marginalised and oppressed.

Help us, God, to be good neighbours –
to look outward instead of inward,
to follow Jesus' call to take action.

Amen.



Psalm 104:1-15

¹ Praise the LORD, my soul.

LORD my God, you are very great;
you are clothed with splendour and majesty.

² The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment;
he stretches out the heavens like a tent

³ and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.
He makes the clouds his chariot

- and rides on the wings of the wind.
⁴He makes winds his messengers,
flames of fire his servants.
- ⁵He set the earth on its foundations;
it can never be moved.
- ⁶You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
- ⁷But at your rebuke the waters fled,
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;
⁸they flowed over the mountains,
they went down into the valleys,
to the place you assigned for them.
- ⁹You set a boundary they cannot cross;
never again will they cover the earth.
- ¹⁰He makes springs pour water into the ravines;
it flows between the mountains.
- ¹¹They give water to all the beasts of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
- ¹²The birds of the sky nest by the waters;
they sing among the branches.
- ¹³He waters the mountains from his upper chambers;
the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.
- ¹⁴He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate—
bringing forth food from the earth:
¹⁵wine that gladdens human hearts,
oil to make their faces shine,
and bread that sustains their hearts.



For the gifts of heaven in the fields of earth,
My soul will sing to the Lord.
For the fruitful lands as they yield their worth,
My heart gives thanks to him.
We may plough the soil, we may plant the seed,
But God will make it grow,
And the harvest comes from the tender goodness
Of the Father's hand.

As the trade winds blow over thirsty plains,
My soul will sing to the Lord,
And the storm clouds pour with reviving rains,
My heart gives thanks to Him.
Every season whispers the mystery,
The glorious rhythm of life,
Till the harvest comes from the boundless goodness
Of the Father's hand.

When the crops have failed and the fields are bare,
My soul will cry to the Lord.
When the hungry know only death's despair,
My heart will look to Him.
For the call goes out from the heart of God
To share with those in need;
As we feed the world we reflect the goodness
Of the Father's hand.

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Matthew 22:37-40

³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is

like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

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

Talk: "Hope in Jesus for Creation in Crisis"



A Prayer for the Climate Crisis

God of justice,

We lift up people around the world who are suffering the effects of the climate crisis. We think of those in Bangladesh, the Philippines, Mozambique and Central America who have recently faced deadly cyclones and floods.

We think of those in Burkina Faso, Brazil, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe who are facing prolonged droughts.

Lord, it is not fair that those who have done the least to cause this crisis are suffering.

Lord, please provide for them, protect them and give them hope for the future.

Lord, we ask that you bless churches and charities who are responding to this crisis; equip them and give them wisdom.

Lord, you ask us to work with you to protect our neighbours; please shake us out of ourselves, so that as the church we can stand up for those in need, raise awareness and call for change.

And Lord, when the issue feels too big or overwhelming,
keep our eyes fixed on you who can do more than we
can ask or imagine.

Amen.

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King

His love endures forever

For He is good, He is above all things

His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm

His love endures forever

For the life that's been reborn

His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise

Sing praise, sing praise

Forever, God is faithful

Forever, God is strong

Forever, God is with us

Forever

From the rising to the setting sun

His love endures forever

And by the grace of God, we will carry on

His love endures forever

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The Offering of Symbols of the harvest:

Let us bring forward symbols of the harvest, gifts that God has created and the sun and wind have nurtured.

Thanks be to God.

We bring forward the soil of our fields.

The offering of the soil is brought forward.

We bring the soil of our fields,
a symbol of all that God has created.

Thanks be to God.



We bring forward the fruits of the earth.

The offering of the fruits of the earth is brought forward.

We bring the harvest of our fields and of our gardens,
symbols of our work in partnership with God.

Thanks be to God.

We bring forward the seeds for next year's planting.

The offering of seeds is brought forward.

We bring the seeds for next year's planting,
symbols of God's promise to provide our daily bread.

Thanks be to God.

We bring forward the water.

The offering of water is brought forward.

We bring water, symbol of our dependence on God for life,
symbol of the new life He gives in baptism.

Thanks be to God.

We bring forward the bread and wine.

The offering of bread and wine is brought forward.

We bring bread and wine, symbols of our use of God's gifts,
symbols of his spiritual food,
the sacrament of His body and blood.

Thanks be to God.

Harvest Prayers:

Let us pray to God, that he will bring to fruition
all that he desires for his creation, and hope to those in need.

Creator God, we thank you for the gift that is creation –
For the beauty of the earth and how
you have created us to care for it.

We are sorry for the ways we have neglected this,
Help us to work together to repair the world.

Lord of the Harvest

Hear our Prayers.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of food –
For how it brings us together and nourishes us.
We pray for those without, whose harvests and
store cupboards are empty,
Help us work together to share the world's resources
so that everyone can be fed.

Lord of the Harvest
Hear our Prayers.

Sustaining God, we thank you for the gift of those who farm
and prepare our food –
For their labour, their innovation and their care.
We pray that everyone will be able to work with dignity,
that there will be no more poverty,
Help us work together to call for just and fair systems
of pay and working conditions.

Lord of the Harvest
Hear our Prayers.



The Lord's Prayer:

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.

O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at every gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious Saviour,
accept the love we bring,

that we who know your favour
may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.

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Blessing:

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

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

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

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us, now and always.
Amen.

Dismissal:

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
And bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



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Archbishops' Council, *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (London: Church House Publishing, 2005)

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