

ST JAMES' CHURCH BIRLINGHAM



HARVEST FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 24th 2023

Welcome and Opening Verse

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease.

(Genesis 8.22)

Congregation Hymn

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!

We ourselves are 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:
grant, O harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

Tune: St George's Windsor
Henry Alford

A Seasonal Poem read by Madeleine Frost

Congregation Hymn

Praise and thanksgiving,
Father we offer,
for all things living
You have made good;
harvest of sown fields,
fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields,
blossom and wood

Lord, bless the labour
we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbour
We may be fed.
Sowing or tilling,
we would work with you,
harvesting, milling,
for daily bread.

Father, providing
food for your children,
your wisdom guiding
teaches us share
one with another,
so that, rejoicing,
sister and brother
may know your care

Then will your blessing
reach every people;
each one confessing
your gracious hand:
where you are reigning
no one will hunger,
your love sustaining
fruitful the land

Tune: Bunessan
Albert Frederick Bayly
© 1988 Oxford University Press

Verses from Psalm 104 read by Val Gilmore

Presentation of Harvest Gifts led by Deborah and Madeleine Frost

We bring before you the offering of wheat and all cereals, potatoes and all the crops from our fields.

We bring the offering of a shepherd's crook, a symbol of the flocks and herds of animals and birds that give us meat.

We bring the offering of flowers, fruits, berries and vegetables from orchards and gardens.

We bring a bowl of water as a symbol not only of the harvest of the sea but also to remind us of the need for water in the growing cycle and our responsibility to use it wisely.

We bring this Harvest Loaf as a symbol of the fruits of human labour and thank God that we can use our talents for the benefit of others.

Congregation Hymn

Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field,
praise God for the people who gather their yield,
the long hours of labour, the skills of a team,
the patience of science, the pow'r of machine.

Praise God for the harvest that comes from afar,
from market and harbour, the sea and the shore:
foods packed and transported, and gathered and grown
by God-given neighbours, unseen and unknown

Praise God for the harvest that's quarried and mined,
then sifted and smelted, or shaped and refined:
for oil and for iron, for copper and coal,
praise God, who in love has provided them all.

Praise God for the harvest of science and skill,
the urge to discover, create and fulfil:
for dreams and inventions that promise to gain
a future more hopeful, a world more humane

Praise God for the harvest of mercy and love
for leaders and peoples who struggle and serve
with patience and kindness, that all may be led
to freedom and justice, and all may be fed.

Tune: STOWEY

Brian Arthur Wren

© 1968 Stainer & Bell Ltd

John 6. 27-35 read by June Barke

Reflection

Congregation 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.
Ev'rything 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 to 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
Ev'rything we say we've made,
plastic bags to metal spades,
all are part of God's creation:
we can make lots of things
from microchips to springs,
but it's God who gives the harvest

Tune: Traditional

Susan Mee

© 1997 Kevin Mayhew Ltd

Praise and thanksgiving

As we celebrate our plenty and give thanks for our food.
Father we praise you for all you have done and for all you have given.

For shelves that are laden and cupboards that are full.

For varied food available...

For taste and flavour,

for a healthy appetite

and the means to satisfy it.

For all that is symbolised in this Harvest Service

Creator and Sustainer of all,

We thank and praise you.

For Provider and Producer,

God and farmer working together in harmony.

For all in the food chain

from field to factory, retailer to consumer, each one depending on the others.

Creator and Sustainer of all,

We thank and praise you.

For our countryside;

Fertile, diverse, and beautiful,

Supplying so much of what we need;

Our food, our water,

Crops for industry, energy, and medicine.

Source of our leisure, relaxation, and renewal.

Creator and Sustainer of all,

We thank and praise you. Amen.

Let us say together The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen

Congregation Hymn (*during which the collection is taken*)

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 heaven above;
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord, for all His love*

Cont.

He only is the Maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
he fills the earth with beauty,
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.
Accept the gifts we offer
for all thy love imparts,
and, what thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts

Tune: Wir Pflügen

Jane Montgomery Campbell, Johann Abraham Peter Schulz, Matthias Claudius

Closing Prayer

Creator God,

As we celebrate our plenty and give thanks for our food,

let us not forget those all over our world who do not have enough to eat...

Grant us generous hearts when we hear about areas of the world suffering from disaster, drought and starvation.

We pray for those in our community who need to access the Foodbank and use the services provided by the Maggs Centre.

And as we thank you for the harvest

may we cherish and respect this planet and it's peoples.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.

Amen

*

Please join us for refreshments at the back of the church.

Service material taken from the Farming Community Network Harvest Festival Service



Hymns: Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New