

# **Christ Church, Ipswich**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Harvest Parade Service**

Hello, I hope you are well.

Today is our Harvest Sunday Parade Service. As usual and as we are able, we are all invited to offer our support to FIND, the Ipswich Foodbank, Operation Agri and Commitment for Life, through our financial giving. For those who wish to donate food items, please bring any non-perishable food donations to Church and leave them in or near the box at the back of the sanctuary as you arrive. FIND will also be able to use any financial donations we make to buy food for those in need. If you would like to give this Harvest time, please either send a single cheque to John, our Treasurer, made payable to 'Christ Church, Ipswich' or give to Christ Church by online bank transfer with 'Harvest' in the reference box. Unless you would like to give specific amounts to one or two of our three charities (if so, please let John know), John will arrange for all gifts to be evenly shared with all three. For bank transfers, please use sort code 40-52-40 and account number 00028412.

Let us worship God together:

## **Call to worship**

We have come together to worship God  
and to thank him for journeying  
with us through the year.  
We have come from our fields and gardens  
to give thanks for the harvest of our land,  
and to ask for his continued blessing  
on the work of our hands.

## **Psalm 65 (BPW 679)**

O God, it is right for us to praise you in Zion  
and keep our promises to you,  
because you answer prayer.

**People everywhere will come to you  
on account of their sins.**

**Our faults defeat us,  
but you forgive them.**

Happy are those whom you choose,  
whom you bring to live in your sanctuary.

**We shall be satisfied  
with the good things of your house,  
the blessings of your sacred temple.**

You set the mountains in place by your strength,  
showing your mighty power.

**You calm the roar of the seas  
and the noise of the waves;  
you calm the uproar of the peoples.**

You show your care for the land by sending rain;  
you make it rich and fertile.

You fill the streams with water;  
you provide the earth with crops.

**This is how you do it:  
you send abundant rain  
on the ploughed fields  
and soak them with water.**

You soften the soil with showers  
and cause the young plants to grow.

**What a rich harvest your goodness provides!  
Wherever you go there is plenty.**

The pastures are filled with flocks;  
the hillsides are full of joy.

**The fields are covered with sheep;  
the valleys are full of wheat.  
Everything shouts and sings for joy.**

## R&S 40 Come, ye thankful people, come, (R&S 40)

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;  
grant, O harvest Lord, that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3 Even so, Lord, quickly come  
to thy final harvest-home;  
from thy field upon that day  
all offences purge away:  
gather thou thy people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there for ever purified,  
in thy glory to abide.

Henry Alford (1810-71) altd.\*

### A prayer of thanksgiving and petition

Loving God,  
we bring you this day our thanksgiving  
for everything you have given us.  
You have blessed us in so much:  
**teach us to use all your gifts wisely.**

We thank you for the infinite beauty of our world,  
for the complexity of the universe,  
for the wonder of creation that can never be exhausted.  
You have blessed us in so much:  
**teach us to use all your gifts wisely.**

We thank you for the constant miracle of day and night,  
summer and winter,  
springtime and harvest,  
the regular cycle of life that we know and depend on.  
You have blessed us in so much:  
**teach us to use all your gifts wisely.**

We thank you for the rich resources of this planet,  
and for all those who labour in different ways  
to make them accessible to us.  
You have blessed us in so much:  
**teach us to use all your gifts wisely.**

We thank you for minds with which to understand, enquire and learn,  
for senses with which to see, hear, smell, taste and touch,  
and for health to enjoy, savour and celebrate.  
You have blessed us in so much:  
**teach us to use all your gifts wisely.**

Forgive us that sometimes we lose our sense of thankfulness,  
becoming complacent and over-familiar  
with the richness of creation.

Forgive us for taking your many gifts for granted,  
 forgetting them,  
 squandering them,  
 even abusing them.  
 You have blessed us in so much:  
**teach us to use all your gifts wisely.**

Loving God,  
 give us a new sense of joy and gladness,  
 hearts that are truly thankful.  
 Help us to recognise again the awesome riches of creation,  
 and to rejoice in the blessings which you shower upon us.  
 You have blessed us in so much:  
**teach us to use all your gifts wisely.**  
**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Operation Agri Video** - Go for growth in Uganda (4 mins)

### **A Prayer of Dedication for our gifts to FIND, Operation Agri and Commitment for Life**

#### **R&S 48 Praise and thanksgiving**

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:  
 when you are reigning  
 no one will hunger,  
 your love sustaining  
 fruitful the land.

A. F. Bayly (1901-84) altd.  
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#### **Harvest Bible Readings**

##### **OT Reading Micah 6:6,8**

##### *What God Requires*

<sup>6</sup> 'With what shall I come before the Lord,  
 and bow myself before God on high?

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
 and what does the Lord require of you  
 but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
 and to walk humbly with your God?

## Gospel Reading Luke 19:1-10

### *Jesus and Zacchaeus*

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup> A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup> He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' <sup>6</sup> So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup> All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' <sup>8</sup> Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham.' <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

### Talk

*I will share an all-age talk on the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus which will include a few words about thankfulness, kindness, sharing, caring and giving.*

*A moment for reflection*

### Prayer

God of the harvest,  
we pray that you would help us to live our lives  
as people of the harvest  
who are thankful and full of praise for your many blessings.  
Help us, dear Lord,  
to share and to give,  
to bless and to love  
through Jesus, our friend and saviour. **Amen.**

### **R&S 90 O Lord, all the world belongs to you**

1. O Lord, all the world belongs to you  
and you are always making all things new.  
What is wrong you forgive,  
and the new life you give  
is what's turning the world upside down.

2. The world's only loving to it's friends,  
but your way of loving never ends,  
loving enemies too;  
and this loving with you  
is what's turning the world upside down.

3. The world lives divided and apart,  
you draw us together and we start  
in our friendship to see  
that in harmony we  
can be turning the world upside down.

4. The world wants the wealth to live in state,  
but you show a new way to be great:  
like a servant you came,  
and if we do the same,  
we'll be turning the world upside down.

5. O Lord, all the world belongs to you  
and you are always making all things new.  
What is wrong you forgive,  
and the new life you give  
is what's turning the world upside down.

Patrick Appleford (1925 - ) alt.  
Copyright © 1965 Josef Weinberger

## Ours prayers of intercession

*A prayer for our world at Harvest Time:*

We pray in thanksgiving for Mother Earth in whom all life is rooted,  
Brother Sun whose energy radiates life, Sister Water who nurtures and revives us, and co-creatures with whom we live, and for whom we are called to till and keep this garden.

Creative Spirit,

**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

Creative Spirit,

**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the Earth.

Creative Spirit,

**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

Creative Spirit,

**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

In the wake of the global pandemic, hear our cries of compassion, and heal our world and all creatures.  
Inspire our hearts with a holy imagination, to rise, freed from the demands to produce and consume to imagine a just, sustainable way of living, where all have enough, and all may be restored.

Creative Spirit,

**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

During this Season of Creation, grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the ground.

Creative Spirit,

**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Creative Spirit,

**enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.**

**Amen.**

God of love, we pray also for those on our hearts today.

We hold Pat Smith in our thoughts and prayers, especially with Thursday in mind, the day of dear Roy's funeral. We keep Nellie and all her family in our thoughts. We think of all those who feel the pain of loss at this time. We keep Joan and Frank, and the family, very much in our prayers at the moment. We pray for Janet Wilson and for her daughter Susan, and for Margaret Widdowson.

*We bring other friends and loved ones before God in a moment of quiet.*

Loving God draw close to those in need.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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. 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.**

## R&S 124 We plough the fields and scatter

1 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.*

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 thee, then, O Father,  
for all things bright and good;  
the seedtime and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food.  
No gifts have we to offer  
for all thy love imparts,  
but that which you most welcome,  
our humble, thankful hearts.

Matthias Claudius (1740-1815)  
Tr. Jane M. Campbell (1817-78)

## The Blessing

May the God of seedtime and harvest whose love and mercy never fail  
bless the hands who plant and reap.

May he give seeds to share with others, grace and courage to nurture these beginnings  
and growth that is a bumper harvest.

And may the blessing of God almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
be upon you and all those you love, this day and always. **Amen.**

## The Grace

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

Resources taken and adapted from *ROOTS for Churches Limited, Seasons of Creation, the Church of England's Resources Hub*, and *BUGB Gathering for Worship*. The Bible reading is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Christ Church's CCLI I number is 181784.