

Christ Church, Ipswich
Sunday 12th October 2025
Harvest Thanksgiving Parade Service

Minister: Revd Neil Coulson
Organist: Mr Stephen Hogger

Call to worship

God of abundance, God of fruitfulness, God of generosity, God of love beyond measure.

God of extravagance, God of celebration, God of goodness, God of love beyond imagining.

**We gather bringing the best that we can offer
to give thanks for the good things you give us,
to share your generosity with others
and to celebrate your unfailing love.**

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.**

ou 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

(Colours received if being paraded)

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.
 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 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 - *Trees, bees and seeds*

Any Food Gifts for FIND received

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

R&S 41 For the beauty of the earth

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

*Gracious God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light:

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild:

5 For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

6 For thy people, evermore
lifting holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
their pure sacrifice of love:

Folliot S. Pierpoint. (1835-1917)

Harvest Drama - *Farmer Jack* (Based on Matt 13.1-9, 18-23) ***Performed by the Scouts***

A moment for reflection as Stephen plays the organ

R&S 42 For the fruits of all creation

1 For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for his gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.

2 In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring

for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

F. Pratt Green (1903-2000)*
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Our prayers of intercession

Lord of the harvest,
the time of sowing and the time of reaping are yours.
The time of weeping and the time of singing are yours, too.
Thank you for the time of sowing and the time of reaping.
Let there be harvest in your world.

We pray for those places in the world where the crops have failed
and for those where poverty is the result of human aggression and human greed...
We pray for a harvest of peace and plenty
and we promise to work with you for it, **both reaping and sowing.**

Let there be harvest in the hearts of children, women and men.
We pray for those who are spiritually starved,
who long for meaning in their lives and who need to belong.
Give to your church patience and energy, boldness to speak out and the ability to listen...
We pray for a harvest of faith and of lives transformed by the Gospel
and we promise to work with you for it, **both reaping and sowing.**

Let there be harvest in our own lives, and in the lives of those we know and love.
 We pray for those who are sick or troubled, for those who are lonely or who have suffered loss...
 We pray for ourselves, that, whatever difficulties we face, our lives may be grateful and joyful.
 We pray for a harvest of deepened love, more faithful discipleship,
 and we promise to work with you for it, **both reaping and sowing.**

Lord of the harvest,
 the time of sowing and the time of reaping are yours.
 The time of weeping and the time of singing are yours, too,
 and we promise to work with you for the harvest of your kingdom, **both reaping and sowing.**

Lord of the harvest, we pray also for those on our hearts today.

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

R&S 124 We plough the fields and scatter *(Colours returned if being paraded)*

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.**