



## HARVEST 2021

St Lawrence with St. Paul, Longridge

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# *Caring for God's Creation*

The Harvest Service

Sunday 10th October 2021

St. Lawrence Church  
Longridge at 10.00 am



God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

GENESIS 10

## INTRODUCTION

Harvest Festival has its origins in the Jewish Feast of the Ingathering. It is a thanksgiving for God's care towards his people, for his gifts that produce the harvest (sun and rain, soil and seeds, plants and animals) and for his partners in the harvest: farmers, fishermen and producers. This year in the run up to the UN Climate Change Conference which the UK is hosting (31 Oct – 12 Nov 2021) we are particularly thinking about our care of God's creation and the physical environment we're handing on to the generations ahead.

### THE GATHERING

### THE GREETING

The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

### HYMN

#### **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.*

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.

*All good gifts, ...*

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.

*All good gifts, ...*

### OPENING PRAYER

Thank you, God, for the harvest,  
and for all the work that people do:

For farmers near and far,  
ploughing and sowing,  
tending and reaping the crops,  
caring for flocks and herds,  
God, we give you thanks

#### **and bless your holy name.**

For fishermen and sea-farers,  
who bring us food from far-off places,  
God, we give you thanks

#### **and bless your holy name.**

For bakers and producers, drivers and  
traders who fill the shops with food,  
God we give you thanks

#### **and bless your holy name.**

For miners and oil rig workers  
who toil in danger, supplying energy for  
factories, and warmth for our homes,  
God, we give you thanks

#### **and bless your holy name.**

For workers in industry and commerce  
who use technology to provide us with  
goods and services,  
God, we give you thanks

**and bless your holy name.**

For your gifts of soil and seeds, sunshine  
and rain, and the miracle of nature's life,  
God, we give you thanks

**and bless your holy name.**

## OFFERING OF HARVEST GIFTS

**We bring our gifts to God  
in thankfulness for the harvest:  
He has given us everything we need.**

God, our Father in heaven,  
who created us and sustains our life,  
accept these harvest gifts as a sign of our  
appreciation for your unfailing love.  
May they bring blessing to the people  
who receive them;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the  
power, the glory, the splendour, and the  
majesty. for everything in heaven and  
on earth is yours. All things come from  
you, and of your own do we give you.**

*The children follow the choir and  
ministers bringing their Harvest gifts to  
the front of the church. We continue to  
sing the following hymn:*

## HYMN

**Autumn days when the grass is jewelled**  
And the silk inside a chestnut shell,  
Jet planes meeting in the air to be  
refuelled,  
All these things I love so well.

*So I mustn't forget.  
No, I mustn't forget,  
To say a great big thank-you,  
I mustn't forget.*

Clouds that look like familiar faces,  
And a winter's moon with frosted rings,  
Smell of bacon as I fasten up my laces,  
And the song the milkman sings.

*So I mustn't ....*

Whipped-up spray that is rainbow-  
scattered,  
And a swallow curving in the sky.  
Shoes so comfy though they're worn out  
and they're battered,  
And the taste of apple-pie.

*So I mustn't ...*

Scent of gardens when the rain's been  
falling,  
And a minnow darting down a stream,  
Picked-up engine that's been stuttering  
and stalling,  
And a win for my home team.

*So I mustn't ...*

## SAYING SORRY

We confess our sin, and the sins of our  
society,

in the misuse of God's creation.  
God our Father, we are sorry  
for the times when we have used your  
gifts carelessly,  
and acted ungratefully.  
Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,  
but sometimes forget that you have given  
them to us.  
Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people who are full and  
satisfied,  
but ignore the cry of the hungry.  
Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless,  
and do not care enough for the world you  
have made.

Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone,  
as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

### **KNOWING GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all  
goodness,  
and keep us in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **THE COLLECT**

Creator God,  
you made the goodness of the land,  
the riches of the sea  
and the rhythm of the seasons;  
as we thank you for the harvest,  
may we cherish and respect  
this planet and its peoples,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Reading**

Psalm 126

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes  
of Zion,  
we were like those who dreamed.
- 2 Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
our tongues with songs of joy.  
Then it was said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for  
them."
- 3 The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy.
- 4 Restore our fortunes, Lord,  
like streams in the Negev.
- 5 Those who sow with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 6 Those who go out weeping,  
carrying seed to sow,  
will return with songs of joy,  
carrying sheaves with them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **JUNIOR CHOIR**

**Bless those  
I give thanks**

*Please Stand for*

**The Gospel Reading**

Matthew 6:25-33

Alleluia, alleluia.

God has spoken to us through his Son,  
through whom he created the worlds.

**Alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

<sup>28</sup> “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## **HARVEST TALK**

## **A CREATION CARE CREED**

We believe and trust in God, all-powerful Creator and Sustainer

- who fashions the heavens and the earth and all that is in them
- who provides in generous abundance all that is needed for the whole of creation to thrive
- who grieves at the way we neglect and spoil his masterpiece, and calls us to account
- who, like a loving parent, sees our weakness and yet persists in love
- who purposes to restore what is broken and retrieve what is lost

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ

- who was born like us, choosing to share our humanity with its joy and its pain
- who lived an earthly life, affirming and celebrating the goodness of the physical world
- who used the natural world to teach us more of God’s nature
- who modelled for us a pattern for living with integrity even though it cost him everything
- who died and came back to life to show us that in sacrifice lie the seeds of freedom and hope

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit

- who danced in the darkness at the dawn of time to bring light and life
- who breathes life and purpose into all living things
- who inspires and guides all people of God throughout the ages
- who calls us to join in the work of sustaining and renewing the earth
- who will lead us home at the end of our age

We commit ourselves to live day by day in the light of these beliefs, cherishing the earth and labouring for its healing and renewing, in loving obedience to God, following the example of Jesus Christ, and seeking the help of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **HYMN**

All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,

*O praise him, O praise him,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,

O praise him, alleluia!  
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
Ye lights of evening, find a voice;

*O praise him...*

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
Make music for thy Lord to hear,  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
That givest man both warmth and light,

*O praise him...*

And all ye men of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye alleluia!  
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on him cast your care;

*O praise him...*

Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship him in humbleness;  
O praise him, alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One;

*O praise him...*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray to God, the Lord of the harvest,  
that he will bring to fruition all that he desires for his creation.

Lord of creation,  
we see that the fields are ripe for harvesting:  
we pray for your Church,  
that it may be ready to gather fruit for eternal life.

Lord of the harvest,

**in your mercy hear us.**

You have created the universe by your eternal Word,  
and have blessed humankind in giving us dominion over the earth:

we pray for the world,  
that we may honour and share its resources,  
and live in reverence for the creation and in harmony with one another.

Lord of the harvest,

**in your mercy hear us.**

Your Son has promised that the Spirit will lead us into all truth:

we pray for the community in which you have set us,  
for one another and for ourselves,  
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace.

Lord of the harvest,

**in your mercy hear us.**

You have given your people a rich land,  
yet by sin we have made a world of  
suffering and sorrow:  
we pray for those who bear the weight of  
affliction,  
that they may come to share the life of  
wholeness and plenty.  
Lord of the harvest,

**in your mercy hear us.**

Your Son Jesus Christ is the first-fruits of  
the resurrection  
and will reap the harvest of the dead at  
the end of time:  
we pray that he will gather us all together  
with those who have gone before  
in the banquet of the age to come.  
Lord of the harvest,

**in your mercy hear us.**

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;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray as our Saviour 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.**

## **HYMN**

**Now thank we all our God,**

With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom his world rejoices;  
Who from our mother's arms  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours to-day.

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.

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 heaven adore,  
For thus it was, is now,  
And shall be evermore.

M. Rinkart (1586 - 1649) Tr.  
Catherine Winkworth (1829 - 78)

## **THE DISMISSAL AND THE BLESSING**

He who supplies seed to the sower and  
bread for food  
will supply and multiply your seed for  
sowing  
and increase the harvest of your  
righteousness.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you  
always.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### **THOSE DEPARTED**

Audrey Scarborough

Sheila Beryl Brierley

Marlene Fox

Florence May Milroy

Constance Wearing



### **Organ Recital and Afternoon Tea**

Sunday 17th October at 3:00pm

Admission is by ticket ONLY

Priced at £10 which includes a full  
afternoon tea - Tickets available from  
Rebekah Okpoti, Choir members or  
Dot Little - See October Log page 24

Creation itself will be set free from  
its bondage to decay and will obtain  
the freedom of the glory of the  
children of God.

ROMANS 8:22



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St Lawrence with St. Paul, Longridge

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