

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH SIGHTHILL
HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE
AND WORLD FOOD DAY**

16TH OCTOBER 2022



**I WILL GIVE YOU THANKS
WITH MY WHOLE HEART**

PSALM 138: 1 (WEB)

All: We bless you, God of Seed and Harvest, and we bless each other, that the beauty of this world, and the love that created it, might be expressed through our lives and be a blessing to others, now and always. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HYMN: COME YE THANKFUL PEOPLE COME

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FqdCskC0QE>

1. Come you thankful people come
Raise the song of harvest home
Fruit and crops are gathered in
Safe before the storms begin
God our maker will provide
For our needs to be supplied
Come with all His people come
Raise the song of harvest home
2. All the world is Gods own field
Harvests for His praise to yield
Wheat and weeds together sown
Here for joy or sorrow grown
First the blade and then the ear
Then the full corn shall appear
Lord of harvest grant that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be
3. For the Lord our God shall come
And shall bring His harvest home
He Himself on that great day
Worthless things shall take away
Give His angels charge at last
In the fire the weeds to cast
But the fruitful ears to store
In His care for evermore
4. Even so Lord quickly come
Bring Your final harvest home
Gather all your people in
Free from sorrow free from sin
There together purified
Ever thankful at Your side
Come with all Your angels come
Bring that glorious harvest home

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HARVEST PRAYER written by Julie Palmer

Our lives go through many seasons, and there are times when it is natural and easy to be thankful at harvest time. So, if you are in a relaxed place and able to drink in the goodness of God and his provision, it is a joyful and special time to give thanks! However, as Christians we all face times where it is harder to be overflowing with praise. Our heavenly Father knows us, and loves us just as we are in the valleys as well as on the hilltops, so

BEFORE THE SERVICE: WHAT ARE YOU GROWING?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDYBrX4DI3k>

HARVEST SAMBA (CABBAGES AND GREENS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqpkWsR6Yew>

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: In the fading of the summer sun, the shortening of days, cooling breeze, swallows' flight and moonlight rays,

All: WE SEE THE CREATOR'S HAND

Leader: In the browning of leaves once green, morning mists, autumn chill, fruit that falls, frost's first kiss

All: WE SEE THE CREATOR'S HAND

Leader: Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth. Forgive us for taking without giving reaping without sowing. Open our eyes to see our lips to praise our hands to share may our feet tread lightly on the path we tread and our footsteps be worthy of following for they lead to you.

Leader: As a part of nature's wondrous cycle Of new birth, growth, fruitfulness and death, we rejoice in the creation of new life, for parenthood, the passing on of knowledge, for understanding and the wisdom of years. We are grateful for those who have gone before, passing on to us our spiritual heritage. May our lives blossom as the apple tree in Spring. May we become fruitful in thought and deed and may the seed of love that falls to the ground linger beyond our time on this earth.

allow yourself the grace to engage with this festival in the truth of your own circumstance and feelings.

What is amazing about the seeds of peace, hope and love that God plants by his Holy Spirit into our lives is that it is often in the hardest and darkest times that we reap the fruits of these seeds. For to grieve daily yet to still love is a beautiful fruit, to be hurt and broken yet to still forgive is an abundant reaping and to struggle with pain or ill health yet still to engage with others and enter into the hope in Christ is a remarkable harvest. These are kingdom blessings that shine so brightly to all around you. **Wherever you find yourself this harvest time, we hope this prayer will help you connect with your heavenly Father:**

Father,
as we celebrate this season of thanksgiving, we give thanks for the blessings of food, provision and nourishment. Please grow in us a harvest for the world. Come sow a seed of hope within our souls Lord, that we might yield goodness, patience and kindness in abundance. Sow a seed of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear the fruits of forgiveness, compassion and righteousness. Come sow a seed of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the blessings of family, friendship and community. May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us into a harvest that can be feasted on by all. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BIBLE READING: Deuteronomy 8: 7 - 18

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills. When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you. He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never known, to humble and test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce

wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

HARVEST – A SHORT HISTORY (Wikipedia)

Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word *hærfest*, "Autumn". It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products. The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the Harvest Moon. So in ancient traditions Harvest Festivals were traditionally held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This moon is the full moon which falls in the month of September.

An early Harvest Festival used to be celebrated at the beginning of the Harvest season on 1 August and was called *Lammas*, meaning 'loaf Mass'. Farmers made loaves of bread from the fresh wheat crop. These were given to the local church as the Communion bread during a special service thanking God for the harvest.

Nowadays the festival is held at the end of harvest, which varies in different parts of Britain. Sometimes neighbouring churches will set the Harvest Festival on different Sundays so that people can attend each other's thanksgivings. Farmers celebrated the end of the harvest with a big meal called a harvest supper. Some churches and villages still have a Harvest Supper.

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as "We plough the fields and scatter", "Come ye thankful people, come" and "All things bright and beautiful" but also Dutch and German harvest hymns in translation helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.

REFLECTION – 'COME YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME'

OFFERING/HARVEST – IT'S HARVEST TIME

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-3JPZcLjVE>

PRAYER FOR OFFERING

God of light and God of night, Creator of seed and mountain, raindrop and fountain, we bring our offering of praise. God of right and God of might, Lover of all, rich and homeless, we bring our offering of praise.

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

In the richness of our faith, we lift our prayers of intercession to you our God, sowing the seeds of our compassion, care and love. Eternal Creator, on this Harvest Sunday, we pray for our world, created in peace and abundance. We marvel at its splendour and wonder, its resources and riches. Indeed, this creation is good. Yet there are many things not so good in our world.

There are people and animals lacking the food they need. Open the ears of those in power to hear the cries of the hungry and open their hearts to share from the abundance of their nations, including our own.

We lift up countries in conflict, praying for a harvest of peace. May your kingdom come on earth, and the seeds of your peace and justice be planted and grow in every land. We lift up our schools, the students and teachers, praying for a harvest of wisdom and opportunity. We lift up our hospitals, the nurses and doctors, praying for a harvest of care and healing of body and mind.

We lift up those who are sick at home, in homes or hospital and in need of prayer. We lift up this congregation, asking that you grow in us a harvest for the world. Sow more seeds of hope within our souls Lord, that we might yield goodness, patience and kindness in abundance. Sow seeds of peace in our lives Lord, that we might bear even more fruits of forgiveness, compassion and righteousness.

Come sow seeds of love in our hearts Lord, that others would reap the blessings of family, friendship and community. May each seed of hope, peace and love grow within us into a harvest that can be feasted on by all. We pray for victims of natural disasters in many parts of the world. We also bring to you those personally to us, in need of a prayer – we name them in silence - Grant them your peace and a harvest of your grace.

God, thank you for hearing our prayers, spoken and unspoken. Thank you for sharing your harvest with us, and empowering us to share it with others through our prayers of intercession. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: O God, You Send Us Out to Walk
TALLIS' CANON 8.8.8.8 ("All Praise to Thee, My God,
This Night")**

1. O God, you send us out to walk,
For faith is more than idle talk;
It's more than saying, "Be well fed!"
When others don't have daily bread.
2. We walk with joyful, eager feet
So others will have food to eat.
We staff the checkpoints, offer rest,
And serve you, Lord, for we've been blessed.

3. When we grow weary, may we know
That some must walk where'er they go.
For water, food, or work to do,
They walk till they grow weary, too.

4. O Lord, we walk in safety here
And know that others walk in fear.
They flee oppression, flood or war;
Each fear-filled day, they walk some more.

5. Not all here walk with strength or speed
But all can give to those in need.
And as we serve you, may we know
You walk with us where'er we go.

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BENEDICTION AND AMEN

May God the Father bless you,
who first sowed the seed of eternal life
in your hearts.

May God the Son bless you,
who nurtures you with the rain
and sunshine of love.

May God the Spirit bless you,
who brings all things to fruition;
and may the grace... Amen

IMELA (THANK YOU) VIDEO -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzU_jT7Y_JA

