



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 21st September 2025

compiled by Dean James - Worship Leader

Call to worship - adapted from Psalm 104

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it; the world and all that lives in it. Thanks be to God.
All the animals of the forest are the Lord's and so are the cattle upon a thousand hills. Thanks be to God.
The Lord makes grass to grow for the cattle and plants for us to cultivate. Thanks be to God.
The Lord brings forth food from the earth, wine that gladdens our hearts. Thanks be to God.
Oil to make our faces shine, bread that sustains our hearts. Thanks be to God.
The Lord makes springs pour water into the valleys; it flows between the mountains. Thanks be to God.
The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. Thanks be to God.
For all who cooperate and collaborate with God to bring food to our tables. Thanks be to God.
Let us come with thankful hearts to worship our God.

Hymn

1] 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.

2] Thou rushing winds that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in Heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice.
O praise him

3] And all ye saints 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

4] 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

St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Prayers

God of the heavens and the earth, You call us to share in the care of your creation and to bring food and fruitfulness from land and sea. Hear our prayer for all who make their living bringing us our food and make us grateful for the work of their hands and for the generosity of your provision. You have given us this earth as an inheritance for ourselves and for the generations to come: Accept, we pray our thanks and praise for our harvest. Guard our hearts and minds that we do not take for granted the food on our tables. Forgive us Lord that many go hungry while we waste so much. Guide us in how we can share all that we have with others.

Almighty Creator God, in your hands are the seeds of life, and you have blessed us abundantly, may we in whom the seeds have grown bear the fruits of love and generosity; May we sow that others may reap and rejoice in a harvest of plenty; equip us to look to a different harvest, a fruitfulness of lives in service to you, and others, Almighty Creator God. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Deuteronomy 8: 6-14

Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him. 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. Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Hymn

1] 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 power of machine.

2] 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.

3] 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.

4] 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.

Brian Wren (b.1936)

Reading: John 6:25-35

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal. "Then they said to him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always. "Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

Reflection

When The people of Isreal were entering the promised land, they were told to observe the commands of the Lord your God, keep His laws and decrees. When Jesus was asked about the commandments, this is what he said: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? "He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. This is the

greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

As the people of God these commandments should always be at the centre of all that we do. As we celebrate harvest, we give thanks to God for all His provision for us, but it must challenge us that there are so many people in the world are hungry and do not get their share. When we consider the command to love our neighbour as ourselves is like (the same as) loving the Lord our God, it must make us pray and work for a time when all will be able to share in the ample food that God has given us in our world.

Our reading from John’s Gospel follows the feeding of the 5,000, where Jesus fed all those people with just five loaves of bread and two fish, which he got from a boy’s lunch. A boy who shared what he had. Did no one else have any lunch with them that day? Today’s story follows that. They had just seen him work that miracle; they had had their fill but were hungry again that’s why some were looking for Jesus. Do another miracle, feed us like Moses did our fathers in the desert. But Jesus points them to himself saying, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst”.

We are in a unique, privileged position as God’s people in this place, and our privilege should put us to work. We can use our abundance to share money and food with food banks and christian relief agencies. We can use our abundance to make choices that are better for ourselves and that will share bread - real bread and water; real food and drink; real fuel and sustenance and nourishment - with God’s children whose lives really will be transformed because of it. And once there is food in someone’s belly...once a worldly, physical need for nourishment is met...hope might be born; new life and what God promises, in Jesus, the bread of life may be realized. And all of God’s children can stop working for food that perishes...stop struggling for life...can begin to find the food that promises eternity, and unending joy, and amazing grace in this life and the next.

We show our love for God by loving others and others see God’s love in Jesus through us. Let us not let our hearts become proud and forget what God calls us to do this harvest and always, Love our neighbours as ourselves.

Hymn

1] We see the fruitful harvest our gracious God provides,
and how, in his abundance, our needs are satisfied.
He sends the yearly seasons, and feeds with joy and care;
pure light and living water poured out for all to share.

*Lord of all the harvest, creation brings you praise,
so we will join the joyful song of everything you’ve made.*

2] This world of revelation unfolds before our eyes,
the birds sing out God’s glories, his wisdom fills the skies.
The seeds are sown to teach us of death that leads to life.
The fruitful trees remind us to live each day in Christ.

Lord of all the harvest

3] There is another harvest, the workers are so few.
We’ll tend the seeds he’s planted and see his word bear fruit.
Creation groans in longing for earth to be restored,
that day of celebration: the harvest of the Lord.

Lord of all the harvest

Sam Hargreaves

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for those whose lives are caught up with your creation, and who work with you in tending and nurturing it; for those afraid for their future, and those struggling to survive; May they know your presence and be conscious of the help that you bring and may they find hope for their future.

Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer.

For those that go hungry and those who endeavour to feed them;
for relief agencies and aid workers giving help and healing to those in need,
For responsible stewardship in our using of your world;
for sustainable consumption as well as production;
for care for creation and compassion for each other.

Lord, in your mercy – Hear our prayer.

For all who struggle to change the system, striving for justice and fair trade,
trying to overcome political blindness and for all who influence our thinking,
our buying and consuming; for all who formulate policy and manage the market;
for fairness and compassion in all walks of life.

Lord, in your mercy – Hear our prayer.

For those in need of healing both mental and physical.
For those mourning for the loss of family and friends.
For rural chaplains and churches, The Farming Community Network and their partner charities;
for the communities in which they work and the people to whom they minister.
And for ourselves that we may live with joy and with care for others. In Jesus name. Amen

Hymn

1] For the fruits of his 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 worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

3] For the harvests of his 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.

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

Blessing

My God who has made us,
Who loves us and gives us life
Bless and keep us, now and always. Amen

Songs published under CCLI No 55876