

Home Sweet Home



Harvest Festival Service

A special welcome to all who have joined us today for our special Harvest Festival Service.

Harvest

A time to give thanks for things we take for granted

Welcome

Opening Verse

The land has yielded its harvest: God our God has blessed us.

Minister: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it

All: Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice

Hymn

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.

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:
Lord of harvest, grant that we, wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day, all offences purge away;
give his angels charge at last, in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store, in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord quickly, come, bring thy final harvest home:
gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin:
there, for ever purified, in thy garner to abide:
come, with all thine angels come, raise the glorious harvest-home.

Thanksgiving Prayer

Minister: Father in heaven all good gifts come from you. You send the sunshine and the rain, and it is through your love and care that we enjoy the harvest time. Thank you for providing so richly for our needs and help us to share the good things we have with those who have little or nothing.

Minister: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

Minister: Lord we pray for your blessing on every kind of harvest that we enjoy. Thank you for the harvest of the land and the sea. Bless too the harvest of factory, mine and workshop. Bless the harvest of research and of creative art. May we work together with you in every area of life to produce what is worthwhile, good and fruitful. May you be glorified in it all.

Minister: Lord in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer

Confession

We confess to you
our lack of care for the world you have given us.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you
our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you
our failure to protect resources for others.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The minister will proclaim the words of forgiveness.

Offering

If you are a tax payer please use Gift Aid envelopes to enable us to reclaim tax. Thank you to those who have presented their gifts by standing order, through the bank, or envelopes. Please stand as the Offering is brought

forward.

Dear Lord, the gifts of the harvest are yours. May we use them wisely to your glory and for the relief of the suffering, as well as for our own needs.

Baptism

Isabelle Ann McReady

Hymn

If I were a butterfly, I'd thank you Lord for giving me wings.
And if I were a robin in a tree, I'd thank you Lord that I could sing.
And if I were a fish in the sea, I'd wiggle my tail and I'd giggle with glee,
But I just thank you Father for making me 'me'.

*For you gave me a heart, and you gave me a smile
You gave me Jesus and you made me your child.
And I just thank you Father for making me 'me'.*

If I were an elephant, I'd thank you Lord by raising my trunk.
And if I were a kangaroo, you know I'd hop right up to you.
And if I were an octopus, I'd thank you Lord for my fine looks,
But I just thank you Father for making me 'me'.

If I were a wiggly worm, I'd thank you Lord that I could squirm.
And if I were a billy goat,
I'd thank you Lord for my strong throat.
And if I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear,
I'd thank you Lord for my fuzzy wuzzy hair,
But I just thank you Father for making me 'me'.



Collect Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, we offer you our grateful thanks for your fatherly goodness and care

in giving us your gifts and the fruits of the earth through the seasons. Give us grace use them rightly, to your glory, for our own well being, and for the relief of those in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Readings

The readings may be followed in Partnership News

At the end of each reading

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

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.

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.

Sermon

Wendy Waters

Hymn

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,

for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

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;
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight;
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven;
Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

The Prayers

Minister	Lord in your mercy
All	Hear our prayer

At the end of our prayers we say The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,
which 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.**

Hymn

All creatures of our God and king
lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, alleluia!
Bring burning sun with golden beam,
soft shining moon with silver gleam,

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

Swift rushing wind so wild and strong,
white clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!
New rising dawn in praise rejoice,
you lights of evening find a voice;
Cool flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for your Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Fierce fire so masterful and bright
giving to us both warmth and light,

Earth ever fertile, day by day
bring forth your blessings on our way,

O praise him, alleluia!
All fruit and crops that richly grow,
all trees and flowers God's glory show;

Let all things their creator bless
and worship him in lowliness,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One,

The Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory
and the welfare of all peoples;
and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit be upon you, this day and for evermore.
Amen.

All Go in peace to love and serve the lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Every year at Harvest our churches gather together to give thanks for the many good things which we are able to enjoy. We thank God for the basics like food and water, and we also remember those who work hard to provide all the things we need. To show our gratitude for how fortunate we are, we always use Harvest as an opportunity to raise funds and give towards a charity. This year we are remembering the most vulnerable and homeless in our own community, those who haven't even got a roof over their heads,.

Our chosen charity is BeCHaR (Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless) a local Bedford charity based in Prebend Street Day Centre. They desperately need funds and resources. They need things like tins of food to feed the hungry, they also need our financial support. Please come and join us for harvest, give thanks for what we have and remember those who have nothing.

The Prebend Day Centre is open 365 days a year helping those least cared for in the community; the homeless, the rootless, the poor, and the hungry. For more information about BeCHaR call our church offices or visit the website [www. prebendcentre.org.uk](http://www.prebendcentre.org.uk)

Thank you to all who have helped prepare our churches for this Harvest Festival Service, and also to those who have contributed in any way to our worship.

