

Harvest Festival Service

Putnoe Heights Church

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



**We plough the fields
and scatter**

Welcome

Opening Verse

The land has yielded its harvest: God our God has blessed us.
Psalm 67:6

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.**

Hymn

Hymn (*Tune: English Country Garden*)

We eat the plants that grow from the seed,
but it's God who gives the harvest.
Cures can be made from herbs and from weeds,
but it's God who gives the harvest.
Ev'rything beneath the sun,
all the things we claim we've done,
all are part of God's creation:
we can meet people's needs
with things we grow from seed,
but it's God who gives the harvest.

We find the iron and turn it to steel,
but it's God who gives the harvest.
We pull the levers, we turn the wheels,
but it's God who gives the harvest.
Ev'rything we say we've made,
plastic bags to metal spades,
all are part of God's creation:
we can make lots of things
from microchips to springs,
but it's God who gives the harvest.

Contributions from our young people

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 The Reverend Charles Royden

Hymn (*Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos*)

For the fruits of all creation, thanks be to God;
For these 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.

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.

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.

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?
All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?
All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?
All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.
All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

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 (*Tune Bunessan*)

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer,
for all things living, you have made good.
Harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
- 2 Lord, bless the labour, we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbour, we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you;
harvesting, milling, for daily bread.
- 3 Father, providing, food for your children,
your wisdom guiding, teaches us share
one with another, so that rejoicing
sister and brother, may know thy care.
- 4 Then will thy blessing, reach every people;
each one confessing, your gracious hand.
When you are reigning, no one will hunger,
your love sustaining; fruitful the land.

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.**

Go in peace to love and serve the lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

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.

