

Welcome to our Harvest Festival

Sunday 5 October 2003



St Mark's Church

Choir

Lord when I think of all the mercies

Welcome

A special welcome to our church pre-school, uniformed organisations and all of those who have joined us today for our special Harvest Festival Service.

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 (Tune: Slane)

The harvest gifts are brought forward during this hymn. Many of the gifts will be distributed to GOLD a charity working with the adult learning disabled.

Lord of creation to you be all praise!
Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways.
Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

Lord of all power I give you my will,
in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfill.
Your bondage is freedom, your service is song,
and held in your keeping my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom I give you my mind,
rich truth that surpasses my knowledge to find.
What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard,
is taught by your spirit and shines from your word.

Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart,
I praise and adore you for all you impart.
Your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
your presence to shield me whatever betide.

Lord of all being I give you my all,
if e'er I disown you I stumble and fall.
But led in your service, your word to obey,
I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

Prayer of Adoration

**Almighty God, our loving Heavenly Father,
in the beginning you gave life and movement
colour and harmony to the universe.
Everything moves by your power
and is one through you.
You move in the minds of all your people,
giving vision and insight, inspiration and hope.
You stir the sleeping conscience,
you rouse the dormant mind
to seek justice, express beauty and declare truth.
And most of all you come to us in Jesus Christ,
bringing love and joy and peace.
So move us now in mind and conscience,
stir and quicken us with beauty and truth.
May we appreciate and enjoy your Creation
as we Praise and Worship you today.**



Confession

**Lord Jesus Christ, through whom and for whom
the whole universe was created,
we mourn with you the death of forests,
fruitful lands that have become deserts,
wild animals left without grass,
plants, insects, birds and animals threatened with extinction,
lands ravaged by war, people left homeless.
As the earth cries out for liberation,
we confess our part in bringing it to the point of disaster.
Through ignorance, often wilfully,
we have thought that we could serve both God and ourselves.
We were unable to resist the temptation
to spend and buy more and more,
with little thought to future generations.
Saviour of the World, you call us to repentance,
so as we confess these sins,
may we be transformed by your love
and play our part in transforming your world.**

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.

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.

Hymn

Who put the colours in the rainbow? Who put the salt into the sea?
Who put cold into the snowflake? Who made you and me?
Who put the hump upon the camel? Who put the neck on the giraffe?
Who put the tail upon the monkey? Who made hyenas laugh?
Who made whales and snails and quails? Who made dogs and hogs and frogs?
Who made rats and bats and cats? Who made ev'rything?

Who put the gold into the sunshine? Who put the sparkle in the stars?
Who put the silver in the moonlight? Who made Earth and Mars?
Who put the scent into the roses? Who taught the honey bee to dance?
Who put the tree inside the acorn? It surely can't be chance!
Who made seas and leaves and trees? Who made snow and winds that blow?
Who made streams and rivers flow? GOD MADE ALL OF THESE!

Hymn

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.

Pre-school

We welcome the pre-school to take part in our service
with their own special harvest contribution.

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 on your Bible Notes Sheet
Heb Chapter 1:1-4, 2:5-12 Mark Chapter 10:2-16

Choir Item

Anthem - Thou visitest the earth.

Hymn

Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,
for by his power each tree and flower was planned and made.
Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it,
sun moon and stars in heaven cry, Jesus is Lord!

*Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!
Praise him with alleluias, for Jesus is Lord!*

Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal,
in flesh he came to die in pain on Calvary's tree.
Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding,
yet gave his life a ransom, thus setting us free.

Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror,
from death he rose, and all his foes shall own his name.
Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit,
to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord!

Sermon
The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman

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.

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

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.

The Blessing

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 us all to fruition;
and may the blessing of God Almighty
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the lord.

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