

**The Teign Valley & Haldon Hill  
Mission Community**



**Harvest Thanksgiving  
Oxenpark Farm, Ashton  
15 September 2019**

## **Welcome to Worship**

We come together today to give thanks to God for the harvest  
and to pray for ourselves and the world

**Many thanks to Joe Clark and Tina Sharman of Oxenpark  
Farm for their generous hospitality**

***There will be a collection during the service to support the  
Thungururu project in Thika, Kenya***

## Hymn: We plough the fields and scatter

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.*



We thank you, 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 your love imparts;  
and that which you most  
welcome,  
our humble, thankful hearts.

*All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above,  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord  
for all his love.*

*Priest* The heavens declare the glory of God  
**All** **The skies display the work of God's hands**

*Priest* Let us pray

Creator God,  
you made the goodness of the land,  
the riches of the sea  
and the rhythm of the seasons;  
as we thank you for the harvest  
may we cherish and respect  
this planet and its peoples,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** **Amen.**

*Priest* Do you not know? Have you not heard?

**All** **As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest,  
cold and heat, summer and winter,  
day and night will never cease.**

*Priest* God of life,  
we praise you for the beauty of creation  
its richness and variety;  
yet through ignorance and greed,  
we scar your world and throw so much away.



### **Reader 1**

I have taken your rain for granted;  
I have taken it for granted that rain will fall,  
the reservoirs and wells will fill,  
the pumpers and the purifiers do their work  
and water pour out from the kitchen tap.  
I have taken your rain for granted.



I have taken your earth for granted;  
I have taken it for granted that coal will  
be dug  
and oil and gas piped across continents,  
atomic power be harnessed, winds and  
tides  
be turned to good account, to give me  
energy,  
to heat and power my home and run my  
car;  
I have taken your earth for granted.



I have taken people for granted;  
I have taken it for granted that  
people  
will want to love and care for each  
other  
and feel they have a duty to the  
poor and weak,  
to nourish children and to nurse  
the sick;  
I have taken people for granted.  
(Stephen Orchard)



## Hymn: We eat the plants that grow from the seed

We eat the plants that grow from the seed,  
but it's God who gives the harvest.  
Cures can be made from herbs and 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 into 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.

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## ***Reader 2***

Forgive us, Lord, for mentioning  
our rubbish in our prayers  
We would rather enjoy the fruits of creation  
and forget about the consequences.  
Forgive our polluted water,  
our toxic soil and sulphurous air.  
Forgive us all the dumped surpluses,  
the slag heaps and the piles of scrap.

We thank you for the signs of your forgiveness:  
for plants and trees which colonise  
even the most unsightly ground;  
for the animals and birds who have learned to live  
in secret places under our urban sprawl  
and turn our rubbish to good account.

We thank you for those who deal with our rubbish,  
who keep our streets and houses healthy;  
who guard us against poisons and radiation,  
or who turn our waste into new riches.

We pray for those for whom the rubbish tip  
is the only source of food and wealth,  
picking through others' leavings in the search  
to keep their family alive.  
(Stephen Orchard)

*Reader* Creator God, you made us and placed us in your garden to be  
stewards, gardeners and caretakers of this place of beauty.  
You gave us responsibilities which we have neglected or  
ignored. We have sown seeds of our own choosing; they have  
sprouted into weeds which do not bear fruit but which choke  
the earth. Forgive us the damage we have caused; teach us to

be responsible stewards of this world and to seek the common good, that through your blessing all may flourish, and all creation sing your praise.

**All Amen.**

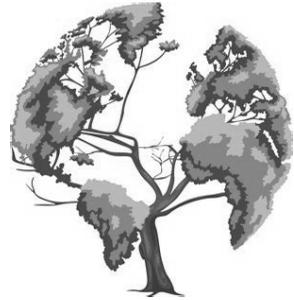
**Hymn: For the healing of the nations**

For the healing of the nations,  
Lord, we pray with one accord,  
for a just and equal sharing  
of the things that earth affords.  
To a life of love in action  
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,  
from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred,  
all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness  
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,  
let it from the earth be banned:  
pride of status, race or schooling,  
dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice  
may we hallow brief life's span.

(© words by Fred Kaan)



### **Reader 3**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy (26:1-11):

#### **The First Fruits**

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.'

You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God**

*During the hymn we bring forward our harvest gifts. Our offerings will be sent to support the Thungururu project in Thika, Kenya*

**Hymn: Lord, you created a world rich in splendour**

Lord, you created a world rich in splendour,  
touched with a beauty no words can express;  
able to move us to outbursts of wonder,  
so much to thrill us and so much to bless.

Mountains and moorlands rise up to the heavens,  
rivers and streams tumble down to the sea,  
gifts that amaze in profusion surround us,  
each a reflection of your majesty.

Promise of springtime and harvest of autumn,  
cold winter mornings and warm summer days,  
season by season brings new joys to greet us,  
reason to thank you and reason to praise.  
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*Priest* God of harvest, Gardener supreme,  
you place us at the centre,  
you feed us, equip us,  
and having provided for us,  
look to a different harvest:  
a fruitfulness of lives  
in service to you and others.  
God of harvest,  
feed us, prune us, harvest us  
that our lives might bring glory to you.

**All** Amen.

**Reader 4**

*Reader* A reading from the gospel according to John

**All** **Glory to you, O Lord**

**The Bread of Life**

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, ‘Rabbi, when did you come here?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for 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 for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’ Then they said to him, ‘What must we do to perform 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, ‘What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” ’

Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which 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 will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’

*Reader* This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All** **Praise to thee, O Christ**

## The land, children and the future – Contributions from Joe Clark and others

*'Things great have small beginnings.  
Every downpour is just a raindrop;  
every fire is just a spark; every  
harvest is just a seed; every journey  
is just a step because without that  
step there will be no journey;  
without that raindrop there can be  
no shower; without that seed there  
can be no harvest.'* (William  
Wilberforce)



### **Hymn: Come ye thankful people come**

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.

*Priest* Let us pray together and affirm our faith in God as Creator, in the words of the Psalm.

O Lord our God,  
your greatness is seen in all the world

**All Your praise reaches up to the heavens**

*Priest* When I look at the sky, the work of your hands,  
at the moon and the stars, which you have set in their place:

**All what are human beings, that you think of them,  
mere mortals, that you care for them?**

*Priest* You made them only a little lower than yourself:

**All you crowned them with glory and honour.**

*Priest* You appointed them rulers over everything you made:

**All you have put all things under their feet.**

*Priest* Sheep and cattle, and the wild animals too,

**All the birds of the air and the fish and the creatures in the seas.**

*Priest* O Lord, our God!

**All Your greatness is seen in all the world!**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be forever. Amen.**

*Leader* Let us pray

*The response to the words 'For what we have received' is  
'Make us truly thankful'*

**All For what we have received  
make us truly thankful**

*Leader* Almighty God, we see your generosity all around us. Thank you for the riot of colour, the astonishing tastes, the wild shapes. You spared no expense in your creativity; thank you for every brilliant idea which we see before us in the harvest today. Help us to be creative in our use of the land you have entrusted to us, so that our children will benefit from our stewardship.

For what we have received

**All** **make us truly thankful**

*Leader* The harvest spills over into our homes. Our cupboards and our fridges are full of good things from around the world, and our meal tables are never short of quantity or choice. Year by year this abundant earth pours forth its amazing harvest. And yet, generous God, often we give you little thanks.

For what we have received

**All** **make us truly thankful**

*Leader* We remember this morning that people have worked hard, sweated, hurt their backs, and endured all weathers to get this food to us: honest toil and sometimes exploited labour. We remember the farmers and all the local farming community who bear a special responsibility for land stewardship; and we remember all gardeners lovingly tending their gardens. And then we remember the packers, shippers, refiners, warehousemen, lorry drivers, shop assistants – all who pass on your good gifts to our tables. They deserve our thanks much more often than once a year.

For what we have received

**All** **make us truly thankful**

*Leader* Lord, when we next take cheese from the fridge, or cut a slice of bread, or pour some rice into a pan, bring to our minds in humble gratitude the chain of production that brought that food to us; give us imagination to appreciate the complexity of our interdependence with the rest of the world, and finally let our minds pause in grateful contemplation of your abundant, profligate love.

For what we have received

**All** **make us truly thankful**

*Leader* As we enjoy your rich harvest here, we remember with sorrow and regret that our over-consumption in the West is at the expense of others. Your good earth produces enough food for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed. Strengthen the hands of the aid agencies; reorder the priorities of governments; and move the hearts of us all to recognise the face of Christ in the plight of the hungry.

*Leader* We keep a time of quiet now to think and pray as we are led; to give thanks for another wonderful harvest; to pray with longing for a fairer world. In silence let us pray to the Lord.

*Pause*

*Leader* Lord, purge our eyes to see  
within the seed a tree,  
within the glowing egg a bird,  
within the shroud a butterfly;  
'til, taught by such, we see  
beyond all creatures, thee.  
(Christina Rosetti)

Let us say together the prayer Jesus taught us:

**All** Our Father, who 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.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

Creator God, provider of all,  
we bring our thanks today.  
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. Amen.

**Blessing:**

*Priest* May the Lord bless you and keep you;  
may the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be  
gracious;  
may the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.  
And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you,  
now and forever.

**All** Amen.

## **Hymn: Fill your hearts with joy and gladness**

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
sing and praise your God and mine!  
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,  
might and majesty divine!  
He who framed the starry heavens  
knows and names them as they shine  
fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
sing and praise your God and mine!

Praise the Lord for times and seasons,  
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;  
spring to melt the snows of winter  
till the waters flow again;  
grass upon the mountain pastures,  
golden valleys thick with grain.  
Praise the Lord for times and seasons,  
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain.

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***Please stay for a harvest  
celebration lunch!***





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