



# Harvest Thanksgiving



'The Harvesters', Pieter Breugel the Elder  
(1565)

5th October 2025  
St Mary's Kidlington

*Please bring gifts for the food bank to the front during the first hymn*

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 wind and  
waves obey him, by him the birds are fed;  
much more to us his children, he gives our daily bread.  
*All good gifts...*

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...*

Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord of the Heavens, for the wonder of Creation  
**we praise you**

Lord of all nations,  
for the richness and variety of our harvest  
**we praise you**

Lord of all our lives,  
for the power and promise of your love  
**we praise you.**

Lord of this place,  
**we give you thanks for creating,  
sustaining and enriching all life. Amen**

*Reflection: Gathering the Crops Safely In.*

The Moors Quartet: 'Thou Visiteth the Earth' by Maurice Greene

## Poem: Blackberry Picking by Seamus Heaney

Late August, given heavy rain and sun  
For a full week, the blackberries would ripen.  
At first, just one, a glossy purple clot  
Among others, red, green, hard as a knot.  
You ate that first one and its flesh was sweet  
Like thickened wine: summer's blood was in it  
Leaving stains upon the tongue and lust for  
Picking. Then red ones inked up and that hunger  
Sent us out with milk cans, pea tins, jam-pots  
Where briars scratched and wet grass bleached our boots.  
Round hayfields, cornfields and potato-drills  
We trekked and picked until the cans were full  
Until the tinkling bottom had been covered  
With green ones, and on top big dark blobs burned  
Like a plate of eyes.

Our hands were peppered  
With thorn pricks, our palms sticky as Bluebeard's.  
We hoarded the fresh berries in the byre.  
But when the bath was filled we found a fur,  
A rat-grey fungus, glutting on our cache.  
The juice was stinking too. Once off the bush  
The fruit fermented, the sweet flesh would turn sour.  
I always felt like crying. It wasn't fair  
That all the lovely canfuls smelt of rot.  
Each year I hoped they'd keep, knew they would not.

Reflection; Awareness, Connectedness, Dependence

## Hymn

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.

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.

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.

*F. Pratt Green*

Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 *Firstfruits and Tithes*

When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land the Lord your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name and say to the priest in office at the time, "I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the land the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the Lord your God.

Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labour. Then we cried out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; and now I bring the first fruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me."

Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him. Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**



Picture; Roger Wagner; 'The Harvest is the End of the World and the Angels are the Reapers.'

Reflection: The Harvest of our Lives

Reading: *I Had Gone a-Begging* by Rabindranath Tagore, (Gitanjali)

I had gone a-begging from door to door in the village path, when thy golden chariot appeared in the distance like a gorgeous dream and I wondered who was this King of all kings! My hopes rose high and methought my evil days were at an end, and I stood waiting for alms to be given unasked and for wealth scattered on all sides in the dust. The chariot stopped where I stood. Thy glance fell on me and thou camest down with a smile. I felt that the luck of my life had come at last. Then of a sudden thou didst hold out thy right hand and say 'What hast thou to give to me?'

Ah, what a kingly jest was it to open thy palm to a beggar to beg! I was confused and stood undecided, and then from my wallet I slowly took out the least little grain of corn and gave it to thee.

But how great my surprise when at the day's end I emptied my bag on the floor to find a least little gram of gold among the poor heap. I bitterly wept and wished that I had had the heart to give thee my all."

## Prayers of Penitence

Let us confess our ingratitude and forgetfulness of the needs of the poor, and repent of the ways in which we waste the worlds resources of the world.

Lord, you give justice to those who are suffering and bread to those who hunger. Pardon our injustice and ingratitude. Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, you loose those who are bound and open the eyes of the blind. Pardon our unforgivingness Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, you watch over the stranger in the land and uphold the orphan and the widow. Pardon our blindness Lord have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

### Offertory Hymn

*At the offertory we offer the eucharistic gifts - bread and wine - for God to transform and bless. As these material gifts are carried through the people to the altar, we also offer ourselves, for God to take, bless, and use for his work in our daily lives. We do not pass around a collection plate but you are warmly invited to contribute to the costs of ministry in this church by using the card reader at the entrance or through a cash donation in the collection plate beside it as you arrive or leave. You can also donate through our website. Thank you for your generosity which is much appreciated.*

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my words to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. ....*

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will send the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. ....*

## Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

We love - **because you first loved us**

We give - **because you gave yourself completely**

We worship - **because you showed your very nature**

We live - **because you died instead of us**

We share - **because your care surrounds us all**

We love - **because you first loved us**

## Eucharistic Prayer H

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children**

**and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross**

**and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,

at supper with his friends

he took bread, and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:**

**his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,

he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;

do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:**

**his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise  
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread**

## Invitation to Communion

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## Hymn During Communion

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong',  
Let the poor say, 'I am rich'  
Because of what the Lord has done for us;  
And now let the weak say, 'I am strong'  
Let the poor say, 'I am rich'  
Because of what the Lord has done for us;

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, 'I am strong'  
Let the poor say, 'I am rich'  
Because of what the Lord has done for us; Give thanks.

## Prayer after Communion and Blessing of the Gifts

Lord of the harvest,  
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation  
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:  
by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us  
and make us generous and wise stewards  
of the good things we enjoy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Our gifts are given with open hearts  
for the benefit of those who have less than we do.  
For families who struggle to put food on the table  
and those who lie awake at night and worry about money.  
For children who go hungry, even in our own prosperous nation.  
For men and women who sleep on our streets.  
For refugees and foreign brothers and sisters  
who are beyond the remit of public funds;  
the Biblical stranger and alien in our midst.  
Remembering your instruction to love our neighbour as ourselves,  
we give these gifts.  
And now Father, bless these gifts and those who will receive them,  
for your name's sake. **Amen**

## Notices

### The Blessing

The blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and those whom you love,  
this day and always. **Amen.**

### Hymn

Come, ye thankful people, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
safe before the storms begin;  
God our Maker will provide  
For our needs to be supplied;  
Come, with all His people, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home!

All the world is God's own field,  
harvests for His praise to yield;  
Wheat and weeds together sown,  
here for 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 bring His harvest home;  
He Himself on that great day  
worthless things shall take away;  
Give His angels charge at last  
In the fire the weeds to cast;  
But the fruitful ears to store  
In His care for evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come,  
Bring Your final harvest home!  
Gather all Your people in,  
Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, together purified,  
ever thankful at Your side;  
Come, with all Your angels, come,  
Bring that glorious harvest home!

*H Alford (1810-71)*

The Peace

Those who sow in peace, raise a harvest of righteousness.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **And also with you**

Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace

## Prayer Ministry Team

If you would like someone to pray personally and simply with you, for yourself or a loved one, please go to the Lady Chapel after the service. Two members of the Prayer Ministry Team will be ready to listen and pray.

## Safeguarding

If you, or someone you know, has been impacted by abuse or has concerns, please speak to the Safeguarding Officer for our parish, Yo Davies (07865 664451; [safeguarding@kidhp.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@kidhp.org.uk)) or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team (01865 208295; [safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:safeguardingreferrals@oxford.anglican.org)).

## Contact details:

Parish office: [office@kidhp.org.uk](mailto:office@kidhp.org.uk)  
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