



Chet Valley Churches



All Together Worship

Thanksgiving for Harvest



20th September 2020

Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to our harvest festival this morning.
We open with some words from the psalm set for today:

O Lord, you care for the land and water it;
You enrich it abundantly.

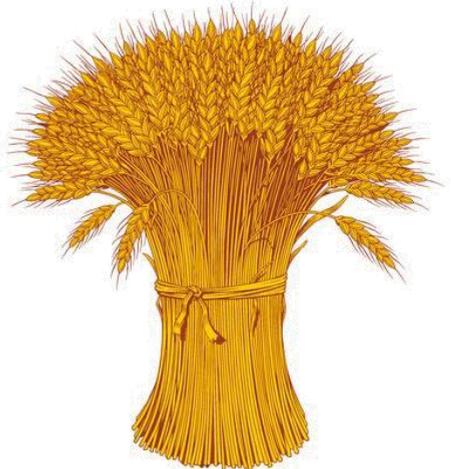
The streams of God are filled with water
You provide the people with grain. Ps 65:9

Hymn 133: 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:
Grant, O harvest Lord, 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 purge away
All that doth offend, that day;
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 forever purified,
In thy garner to abide:
Come, with all thine angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest home!**

Opening Prayer

**Almighty God from whom all life and health comes,
hear us now as we bring our harvest praise to you.
Still our hearts, deepen our listening
and touch our restless, hungry lives,
we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Confession

O God our Father, we confess that we have often used your gifts carelessly, and acted as though we were not grateful. Hear our prayer, and, Father, in your mercy, **forgive us and help us.**

When we enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but forget they come from you, then,

Father, in your mercy, **forgive us and help us.**

When we are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry and those in need, then,

Father, in your mercy, **forgive us and help us.**

When we are thoughtless, and do not treat with respect or care the wonderful world you have made, then,

Father, in your mercy, **forgive us and help us.**

When we store up for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven, then,

Father, in your mercy, **forgive us and help us.**

The minister pronounces the absolution

The God of love bring you back to himself, forgive you your sins, and assure you of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

♪ Anderson Gloria

Gloria 🙌🙌 **Gloria** 🙌🙌 *in excelsis deo.*

Gloria 🙌🙌 **Gloria** 🙌🙌 *in excelsis deo.*

**Lord God, Heavenly King,
Peace you bring to us;
We worship you, we give you thanks,
We sing our song of praise.**

Gloria 🙌🙌 **Gloria** 🙌🙌...

**Jesus, Saviour of all,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
You take away our sins,
O Lord, have mercy on us all.**

Gloria 🙌🙌 **Gloria** 🙌🙌...

**At the Father's right hand,
Lord receive our prayer,
For you alone are the Holy One,
And you alone are the Lord.**

Gloria 🙌🙌 **Gloria** 🙌🙌...

**Glory, Father and Son,
Glory, Holy Spirit,
To you we raise our hands up high,
We glorify your name.**

Gloria 🙌🙌 **Gloria** 🙌🙌...



Reading: Psalm 65:8-13

The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy. You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

Reading: Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him.



Keeping their distance, (they knew about social distancing even then!) they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean.



Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.



Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?”

Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then Jesus said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

So, none of the lepers come back to say thank you except for one.

Jesus commends the Samaritan for being so happy that he has been healed that he has come back to praise God and to say thank you.



Saying thank you brought that man an even greater blessing because he came into contact with the healer. He met with Jesus. How wonderful!

Talk: Saying Thank You [Rev Alison]

I wonder how you feel when people don't bother to say thank you to you when you have done something for them.

Or maybe how other people feel when you don't bother to say thank you to them for what they have done for you.

Isn't it nice when people remember to say thank you to us?

"Thank you, Mummy, for making me my tea".

"Thank you, Nanna, for picking me up from school".

"Thank you, Daddy, for reading me my bedtime story".

"Thank you, children, and adults, for being so sensible in church this morning and sitting just where we asked you to".

But what has all this got to do with harvest?

It's been a funny kind of year this year.

We had a very wet Winter and early Spring. The land was soaking wet and very muddy. Then just after the farmers were able to get their tractors onto most of the land and sow the seed, and just when the seedlings were sprouting, we had a very dry period. Consequently, many of the seeds that were sown did not grow at all and died. Then it got very hot and so some of the plants were scorched and the ears didn't fill well. So the harvest is very poor in our country this year, about 40% down on normal, and the price is not good for the grain. Farmers cannot remember it ever being this bad in their lifetimes.

I don't suppose that the farmers particularly feel like saying thank you to God for the harvest. They have worked so hard and have harvested so

little. Those I have spoken to sound fairly philosophical about it—it is what it is. Next year will surely be better.

Those farmers work hard to look after their fields and animals. They work hard to get food to us. I wonder if we ever say thank you to them: if we ever really think about everyone involved in getting food from farm to plate; if we ever thank those concerned with whom we come into contact; or maybe we are not sufficiently bothered to remember. Perhaps next time you are in the supermarket, or the greengrocers you could give an extra big thank you to the shelf stackers, the till assistants; or an extra big thank you to the delivery drivers bringing your shopping to you. And don't forget whoever gets your meal ready for you.

I wonder how God feels when we can't be bothered to say thank you to him. I suspect that, like the farmers, God is pretty philosophical about it – next time surely Alison will remember to say thank you, surely Maia will remember, surely Roger, Shaun, Anne... will remember.

Do we ever stop to say thank you to God?

We have much to be thankful for amidst the pandemic, Brexit, poverty, illness, disappointment.

This year we have a harvest—in many parts of the world others do not because of flooding, fire, a huge plague of locusts. We have homes—in many parts of the world others do not because of war, natural disaster, ethnic cleansing. We have freedom—in many parts of the world others do not because of imprisonment for disagreeing with those in charge, because of bullying or abuse, because of slavery. As I said, we have much for which to be thankful.

Let's remember to thank those around us for what they do for us. Let's remember to say thank you to God for all that is good. And when we say thank you to God, maybe we will find ourselves blessed, just like that leper, as we draw close to God.

♪ Hymn: *Harvest Samba*

**Cabbages and greens, Broccoli and beans,
Cauliflower and roasted potatoes, Taste so good to me!**

**Apricots and plums, Ripened in the sun,
Oranges and yellow bananas—Good for everyone!**

*It's another Harvest Festival
when we bring our fruit and vegetables,
'Cause we want to share the best of all
the good things that we've been given.
It's another opportunity, to be grateful for the food we eat,
With a samba celebration to say 'Thank you' to God the Father.*

**Golden corn and wheat, Oats and sugar beet,
Fluffy rice and tasty spaghetti, Wonderful to eat!
Coffee, cocoa, tea, Growing nat'rally,
Herbal plants and all kinds of spices—
Very nice indeed!**

It's another Harvest Festival...

**Thank you for the harvest,
Thank you for your goodness,
For all of the fruit and vegetables
And the wonderful things that grow.
Thank you for the harvest,
Thank you for your goodness,
For all of the fruit and vegetables
And the wonderful things that grow.**



**Cabbages and greens,
Broccoli and beans,
Cauliflower and roasted
potatoes—
Taste so good to me!
Apricots and plums,
Ripened in the sun,
Oranges and yellow bananas—
Good for everyone!**

**Thank you for the harvest,
Thank you for your goodness,
For all of the fruit and vegetables
And the wonderful things that
grow.
Thank you for the harvest,
Thank you for your goodness,
For all of the fruit and vegetables
And the wonderful things that
grow.**

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Father,
From whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
Who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
Who strengthens us with power from on high.

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

Thanksgiving for 50th Anniversary of Ordination

Today we are thinking about saying thank you to God: thanking God for the harvest, the leper returning to thank Jesus for his healing.

And there is another special thank you for today. Barry Rodwell is celebrating 50 years since he was ordained. There is much to be thankful for in that: God called Barry then, and continues to call people, to ordained ministry. Barry spent many years ministering as priest, some of which were spent in Chet Valley Benefice and we are grateful to Barry and to God for the work that he did here.

And so let us pray.

Lord, we thank you for the opportunities that you give to us to minister to other people.

We thank you that you abundantly equip each of us with the gifts necessary for the work of ministry and for the building up of the body of Christ.

Especially we thank you for the ministry of a priest and that Barry has faithfully shepherded your people wherever he has ministered.

As part of Barry's priestly ministry he will have called down God's blessing on many people and so we ask God's blessing on him now.



May God who made heaven and earth, bless you, Barry.

May he protect you from all that harms.

May he watch over your going out and your coming in from now and for ever more.

† And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and those whom you love, now and always. **Amen.**

We Pray Together

Visual Aids: toy tractor, bread, plastic world ball, sad face plate

Let us pray.

Tractor: We pray for farmers, and other agricultural workers. We are thankful that they carry on even when the harvest is small. Help them not to lose hope when things are difficult.

Lord of the harvest **we thank you today.**

Bread: We pray for everyone involved in getting food to our plates: shelf stackers, till assistants, foodbank volunteers.... We are thankful for the work that they do.

Lord of the harvest **we thank you today.**

Plastic world ball: We pray for people around the world who do not have a harvest, who do not have a home, who do not have freedom. We ask that help will come to them today.

Lord of the harvest **we thank you today.**

Sad face plate: We pray for anyone feeling sad or troubled. We pray that you may draw near to them and bless them with your peace.

Lord of the harvest **we thank you today.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn 719: *We Plough the Fields*

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.

All good gifts around us...

We thank thee then, O Father,
For all things bright and good;
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
For all thy love imparts,
But what which thou desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts: [Refrain]

All good gifts around us...



Response and Prayer

The earth is fruitful: **may we be generous.**

The earth is fragile: **may we be gentle.**

The earth is fractured: **may we be just.**

**Creating God, harvest in us joy and generosity
as we together share in thanks and giving. Amen.**

Blessing

God the Father, who created the world,
give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation. **Amen.**

God the Son, who redeemed the world,
inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation, help you to
bear the fruits of loving service. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us
all and those whom we love now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

🎵 Hymn: *Doxology*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

