

**ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, SIGHTHILL**  
**15<sup>th</sup> October 2023**  
**HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE 3**



The land has yielded its harvest:  
Our God has blessed us (Psalm 67:6)

**WELCOME AND INTIMATIONS**

**THANKSGIVING MEDLEY -**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3dXCL34aEA>

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Minister: The earth is the Lord's and  
all that is in it

**All: Let the heavens be glad and let  
the earth rejoice**

**HYMNS: MP 732 - WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS  
AND SCATTER**

1. 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

**Chorus**

**All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above  
Then thank the Lord  
O thank the Lord for all His love**

2. 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

3. 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 that which Thou desirest  
Our humble thankful hearts

CCLI Song # 328554, Jane Montgomery Campbell |  
Johann Abraham Peter Schulz | Matthias Claudius©

**IT'S HARVEST TIME -**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-3JPZcLjVE>

**HARVEST/ THANKSGIVING PRAYER (MEMBERS  
BRING ITEMS TO THE TABLE)**

**Basket of local vegetables and fruit**

Minister: We celebrate the gift of our  
climate and soil here in Scotland,  
helping us grow vegetables and fruits  
in our fields and gardens

**All: Thank you Lord, for our local 5 a  
day.**

**Churn or jug of Milk**

Minister: We celebrate the daily gift  
of cows, goats and ewe's milk from  
which we make our cheeses, butter,  
yoghurts, ice-cream and more

**All: Thank you Lord, for our dairy  
products.**

**Bag of seed(s)**

Minister: We celebrate seed for the  
future, gathered today so we can eat  
tomorrow.

**All: Thank you Lord, for the harvest  
of seeds.**

**Bag of potatoes**

Minister: We celebrate this gift  
of potatoes - which we enjoy in  
different forms (chips, tatties etc)

together with fish, chicken, mince or mushy peas.

**All: Thank you Lord, for our potatoes. Thank you Lord, for all the gifts and fruits of the earth.**

Minister: We also give thanks for farmers, growers, packers and processors, for breeders, stock people, shepherds and dairy farmers,

**All: Thanks be to God**

Minister: For all who cooperate and collaborate with God to bring food to our tables,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Minister: For distributors, hauliers, retailers and stall-holders, for chefs, cooks and creative entrepreneurs,

**All: Thanks be to God**

Minister: For our amazing world, the forests, mountains, the rivers, lochs, valleys, the Wild game and for the birds of the air which nest by the waters and sing among the branches. We say,

**All: Thanks be to God, Amen**

Minister: Gathering our prayers into one, we pray as our Lord Jesus taught us:

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERING: BRINGING IN THE SHEAVES -**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYPIdChzC9Q>

## **BIBLE READINGS:**

**JOEL 2:21-28** (Joel pictures the fullness of harvest with thanksgiving to God for sweet rains. Joel was familiar to the early Christians and quoted by Peter in his Pentecost sermon (Acts. 2:17). Humans are now interfering with the climate and changing rainfall patterns).

**MATTHEW 13:1-9** (Jesus used the imagery of seeds in his parables. Until recently people saved their own seed to sow the following season. How as Christians can we help preserve local seed diversity in a world of large multinational companies?)

## **MESSAGE**

### **PRAYER FOR OFFERINGS**

**All: 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.**

### **PRAYERS FOR OTHERS - WHAT IF... PRAYER**

What if the whole world saw food as a community asset instead of a commodity?

What if our economy redistributed wealth like a healthy body uses fuel to ensure every part of it flourishes?

What if the church took on the challenge to be Christ's body here on earth with unfettered commitment?

What if the barriers fell, the blinkers came off, the tectonic plates holding the 'me and mine' mentality shifted until there was only us - and the powerful words 'You give them something to eat' became common sense because what else do you do with hunger, but share it away?

God, who pours good things into and over and through this world and its people, when our wants turn the flow of your gifts to a trickle, take our hearts by the hand and lead us back to your path. Teach us to walk lightly, sharing all we have.

Today, as we gather to celebrate that harvest has come here, we are mindful that there are other places on our planet home where hunger came instead. May mindful grow into helpful. Help us see our yield as your gift to the world and welcome others to share our table.

Today, as we gather to celebrate harvest, we are mindful that there are places here in the UK and across the globe where crops have been seriously affected by extreme weather. For many

the harvest has not been plentiful, and for many more it hasn't come at all. Instead there is only the prospect of hunger.

We are mindful and concerned that there are many in Israel and Palestine who are more worried about staying alive than going out to find something to eat. As the bombs drop, the most vulnerable suffer first and fiercest and, without sharing compassion, millions will die - each one loved by you and family to us.

### **A prayer for a lasting harvest of peace in the Middle East**

Almighty God! after almost a century of mistrust and fratricide, you inspired Jews, Christians, and Muslims to take the path of reconciliation in the Middle East... We ask for your forgiveness, O God, yet we find it hard to forgive our past enemies. May Your Words touch those who still stray in the wilderness of vengeful violence, forgetting your command to "forgive and overlook, till You accomplish your Purpose; for You have the power over all things.

"God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East: Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis. Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice could be experienced by all. In Jesus' name, Amen

**CLOSING HYMN: CHRIST, YOU WALKED AMONG THE GRAIN FIELDS TUNE: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")**

1. Christ, you walked among the grain fields, finding lessons all around: "Like the harvest that the earth yields, So God's kingdom will abound." "See! A sower goes out planting; Some seed grows a hundredfold." Here on earth you gave us heaven. In the stories that you told.

2. Lord, you shared God's kingdom-bounty, Yet you know our pain and need. Some are poor in lands of plenty, often hurt by others' greed. Some, possessed by their possessions, look for more to buy and keep; Others long for simpler blessings: "Let my hungry children eat."

3. Lord, you send us out to labour, to pass on the love you give; City friend and country neighbour work as one so all may live. Lending land and tools and vision, sharing costs and planting seed, work we love becomes our mission as we serve your world in need.

4. May our harvest celebration build new food security; As we care for your creation, may we find community. By your Holy Spirit bless us and may what we grow increase. Till the whole world sees new glimpses Of your joyful banquet feast.

Tune: The Sacred Harp/ Beach Spring ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending") Text: Copyright © 2005 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.

### **BENEDICTION AND AMEN**

**The earth has yielded its harvest, we have all received God's gifts and we now go out with thankful hearts to tend the earth and to care for God's creation. We also go out with generous lives and to share with those in need.**

**And may the grace...**



**IMELA (THANK YOU) VIDEO -**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzU\\_jT7Y\\_JA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzU_jT7Y_JA)