



Where all find a welcome and are nurtured in their journey with Christ.

# Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 4 October 2020

10.00 am

## Join us online

Visit [whitkirkchurch.org.uk/live](https://whitkirkchurch.org.uk/live) on your computer, tablet or mobile phone to watch this service.

## Stay up to date

Sign up to get our weekly email with notices, news and more at [whitkirkchurch.org.uk/notices-email](https://whitkirkchurch.org.uk/notices-email).

## Stay in touch

If you need extra support during this time or even if you just want to say hello you can always get in touch with us.

Call **0113 264 5790**.

Email [hello@whitkirkchurch.org.uk](mailto:hello@whitkirkchurch.org.uk).

## Find out more

You can find the latest on what St Mary's Church is doing through the coronavirus outbreak on our website, along with links to the latest from the Church of England, the Diocese of Leeds and official advice at [whitkirkchurch.org.uk/coronavirus](https://whitkirkchurch.org.uk/coronavirus).

## **The Greeting**

God in Christ has revealed his glory.

**Come let us worship.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting

**the Lord's name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

**O praise the name of the Lord!**

## **Words of Welcome**

### **Hymn**

**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!**

**We ourselves are 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.**

**Then, thou Church triumphant, come,  
raise the song of harvest-home;  
all is safely gathered in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there for ever purified  
in God's garner to abide,  
come, ten thousand angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest-home!**

# Confession

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society,  
in the misuse of God's creation.

God our Father,  
we are sorry for the times  
when we have used your gifts carelessly,  
and acted ungratefully.

Hear our prayer, and in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest,  
but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.

Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied,  
but ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless,  
and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

We store up goods for ourselves alone,  
as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

The Lord enrich you with his grace,  
and nourish you with his blessing;  
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;  
the Lord accept your prayers,  
and absolve you from your offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

**Amen.**

## **Collect**

God of grace, ever creating and restoring,  
you breathe life into all things  
and embrace us with an everlasting love;  
help us to grow in wonder and awe,  
to embody a spirit of gratitude,  
and to dream generous dreams;  
that, in gathering what we have,

we may graciously offer ourselves  
to accomplish what you will,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Reading from the Bible**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy/

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper.

You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today.

When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions.

He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good.

Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

*Deuteronomy 8.7-18*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



# Hymn

**Think of a world without any flowers,  
think of a world without any trees,  
think of a sky without any sunshine,  
think of the air without any breeze.**

**We thank you, Lord, for flow'rs and trees and sunshine,  
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.**

**Think of a world without any animals,  
think of a field without any herd,  
think of a stream without any fishes,  
think of a dawn without any bird.**

**We thank you, Lord, for all your living creatures,  
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.**

**Think of a world without any people,  
think of a street with no-one living there,  
think of a town without any houses,  
no-one to love and nobody to care.**

**We thank you, Lord, for families and friendships,  
we thank you, Lord, and praise your holy name.**

# The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for harvesting. Gather the fruit for eternal life.

*cf John 4.35,36*

## **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

## **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus told them a parable:

“The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those

who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!

And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?

Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you — you of little faith!

And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep

worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

*Luke 12.16-30*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Harvest Thanksgiving**

Let us give thanks to God, the God of all peoples of the earth.

For the colour and forms of your creation  
and our place within it,

we bring our thanks, good Lord:

**your mercy endures for ever.**

For our daily food, and for those whose work  
and skill bring your good gifts to us,

we bring our thanks, good Lord:

**your mercy endures for ever.**

For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts; for insight and imagination, for the skills of research which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many;

we bring our thanks, good Lord:

**your mercy endures for ever.**

For the light and shades of the changing seasons, and their variety and dependability; for new life and growth out of barrenness and decay;

we bring our thanks, good Lord:

**your mercy endures for ever.**

For new hope and strength in our communities, especially in your Church and among all you call to serve you,

we bring our thanks, good Lord;

**your mercy endures for ever.**

For all in whose lives we see goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and humility, and all the fruit of the Spirit,

we bring our thanks, good Lord:

**your mercy endures for ever.**

For the life we have been given, and for all those whom you have given us to share it,

we bring our thanks, good Lord:  
**your mercy endures for ever.**

## **Anthem**

*Thou Visitest The Earth*  
*Maurice Greene (1696-1755)*

Thou visitest the earth and blessest it,  
and crownest the year with thy goodness.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Written and led by Chris Peat, and ending with...*

Offering ourselves into the hands of God, let us pray  
with confidence in the words our Saviour 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.**

## **Hymn**

**Praise, O praise our God and King;  
hymns of adoration sing:  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**Praise him that he made the sun  
day by day his course to run:  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**And the silver moon by night,  
shining with her gentle light:  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**Praise him that he gave the rain  
to mature the swelling grain:  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**And hath bid the fruitful field  
crops of precious increase yield:  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**Praise him for our harvest-store,  
he hath filled the garner-floor:  
for his mercies still endure  
ever faithful, ever sure.**

**Glory to our bounteous King;  
glory let creation sing:  
glory to the Father, Son  
and blest Spirit, Three in One.**

## **Prayer and Acclamation**

Lord of the harvest,  
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation:  
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.**

The earth has yielded its harvest;

**God, our God, has blessed us.**

You visit the earth and water it;

**you make it very plenteous.**

You soften the ground with showers;

**and bless the increase of it.**

You crown the year with your goodness;

**and your paths overflow with plenty.**

The meadows are clothed with sheep;

**the valleys stand so thick with corn,  
they shout for joy and sing.**

The earth has yielded its harvest;

**God, our God, has blessed us.**

*cf Psalm 65.8,10,11,13; 67.7*

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

*cf Galatians 5.22,23*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

## 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 heav'n 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;  
he fills the earth with beauty,  
by him the birds are fed;  
much more to us, his children,  
he gives our daily bread.**

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

**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.**

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

## **Blessing and dismissal**

The God of hope fill us with every blessing,  
that we may share in every good work;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in eager and refreshing hope.  
Work with Christ risen from the dead,  
to fulfil the promise of a new creation.

**Thanks be to God.**

“Think of a world without any flowers”

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