

# **Celebration of God's Creation at Harvest**

**13 September 2020**



**Jesus said  
'I am the Bread of Life'**

## Gathering

O all you created works of the Lord, bless the Lord.

**Praise him and magnify him for ever.**

O hills of Dorset, Hambledon, Hod and Badbury Rings, bless the Lord. **R**

O rivers, Stour and Allen, fish, reptiles and mammals, bless the Lord. **R**

O Jurassic coast, cliffs, rocks and fossils, bless the Lord. **R**

O fields and farms, crops and animals, bless the Lord. **R**

O heaths and woodlands, bless the Lord. **R**

O singing birds, bright flowers and buzzing insects, bless the Lord. **R**

O people of Wimborne, young and old, bless the Lord. **R**

O Cuthburga and saints of the past who rest in Jesus, bless the Lord. **R**

O faithful servants of the Lord, bless the Lord. **R**

O let the earth bless the Lord. **R**

[Alison Francis]

## Introduction

**Opening Hymn** For the beauty of the earth

**Confession** led by Andrew Patrick

As we prepare to celebrate, let us call to mind our sins  
and the sins of our society in the misuse of God's creation.

God has blessed us, but still God's children go  
hungry Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy**

God has blessed us, but still the poor cry out for justice  
Christ, have mercy

**Christ, have mercy**

God has blessed us, but still we see  
inequality and oppression in the earth  
Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy**

May the God of Love bring us back to himself, forgive us our  
sins, and assure us of his eternal love in Jesus Christ our  
Lord. **Amen**

**Collect** for Harvest

Source of all life, we give thanks to you for your wondrous creation made manifest  
in the environment that surrounds us; strengthen us in the mission of stewardship  
and care towards nature, the work of your hands, encouraging us to preserve life in  
all its precious forms. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, who live and reigns with  
you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**OT reading** Deuteronomy 8: 11-20 Read by Andrew Patrick

**8 11-16** Make sure you don't forget GOD, your God, by not keeping his commandments, his rules and regulations that I command you today. Make sure that when you eat and are satisfied, build pleasant houses and settle in, see your herds and flocks flourish and more and more money come in, watch your standard of living going up and up—make sure you don't become so full of yourself and your things that you forget GOD, your God, the God who delivered you from Egyptian slavery; the God who led you through that huge and fearsome wilderness, those desolate, arid badlands crawling with fiery snakes and scorpions; the God who gave you water gushing from hard rock; the God who gave you manna to eat in the wilderness, something your ancestors had never heard of, in order to give you a taste of the hard life, to test you so that you would be prepared to live well in the days ahead of you.

**17-18** If you start thinking to yourselves, "I did all this. And all by myself. I'm rich. It's all mine!"—well, think again. Remember that GOD, your God, gave you the strength to produce all this wealth so as to confirm the covenant that he promised to your ancestors—as it is today.<sup>19-20</sup> If you forget, forget GOD, your God, and start taking up with other gods, serving and worshipping them, I'm on record right now as giving you firm warning: that will be the end of you; I mean it—destruction. You'll go to your doom—the same as the nations, GOD is destroying before you; doom because you wouldn't obey the Voice of GOD, your God.

The Message

**Reflection** – God's provision of daily bread - Revd Heather Waldsax

**Thanksgiving** - led by De Ashton

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.**

**Gospel** – John 6 v 35 – 51

Read by Andrew Patrick

<sup>35-38</sup> Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life. The person who aligns with me hungers no more and thirsts no more, ever. I have told you this explicitly because even though you have seen me in action, you don't really believe me. Every person the Father gives me eventually comes running to me. And once that person is with me, I hold on and don't let go. I came down from heaven not to follow my own whim but to accomplish the will of the One who sent me."<sup>39-40</sup> "This, in a nutshell, is that will: that everything handed over to me by the Father be completed—not a single detail missed—and at the wrap-up of time I have everything and everyone put together, upright and whole. This is what my Father wants: that anyone who sees the Son and trusts who he is and what he does and then aligns with him will enter *real* life, *eternal* life. My part is to put them on their feet alive and whole at the completion of time."<sup>41-42</sup> At this, because he said, "I am the Bread that came down from heaven," the Jews started arguing over him: "Isn't this the son of Joseph? Don't we know his father? Don't we know his mother? How can he now say, 'I came down out of heaven' and expect anyone to believe him?"<sup>43-46</sup> Jesus said, "Don't bicker among yourselves over me. You're not in charge here. The Father who sent me is in charge. He draws people to me—that's the only way you'll ever come. Only then do I do my work, putting people together, setting them on their feet, ready for the End. This is what the prophets meant when they wrote, 'And then they will all be personally taught by God.' Anyone who has spent any time at all listening to the Father, really listening and therefore learning, comes to me to be taught personally—to see it with his own eyes, hear it with his own ears, from me, since I have it firsthand from the Father. No one has seen the Father except the One who has his Being alongside the Father—and you can see *me*."<sup>47-51</sup> "I'm telling you the most solemn and sober truth now: Whoever believes in me has real life, eternal life. I am the Bread of Life. Your ancestors ate the manna

bread in the desert and died. But now here is Bread that truly comes down out of heaven. Anyone eating this Bread will not die, ever. I am the Bread—living Bread! - who came down out of heaven. Anyone who eats this Bread will live—and forever! The Bread that I present to the world so that it can eat and live is myself, this flesh-and-blood self.”  
The Message

**Reflection** – Jesus the Bread of Life – Revd Heather Waldsax

**Intercessions** prepared and led by De Ashton

### **The Peace**

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**And also with you**

### **Preparation of the Table**

Let us give thanks for the sharing of all God’s gifts

And ask for God’s blessing upon our own harvest

And upon the harvests of those far away.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have these gifts to offer

Which earth has given and human hands have tended and grown

**Blessed be God for ever**

As the grain once scattered in the fields

and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside

are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,

so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together

from the corners of the earth

into your kingdom. **Amen**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here

**His Spirit is with us**

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**

Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish.

You give us the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, and every plant and tree; the life that sleeps in the winter earth, and awakens again in the spring. You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with St Cuthburga, and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and forever. **Amen**

## **Holy Communion**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people

The body and blood of Christ given for you **Amen**

**Motet** Rutter: A Gaelic Blessing

## **Post Communion Prayer**

O God,  
your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in his redeeming work,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** Let us with a gladsome mind

## **Closing Prayer and Blessing**

God the Father, who created the world	
Give us grace to be wise stewards of his creation	<b>Amen</b>
God the Son, who redeemed the world,	
inspire us to go out as labourers into his harvest	<b>Amen</b>
God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation	
Help us bear his fruits of love, joy and peace	<b>Amen</b>
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit	
Be upon you and remain with you now and forever more	<b>Amen</b>

**Tonight at 6.30pm  
Evensong**

**Rose responses**

**Psalm 119.41-48**

**Stanford in B flat**

**Lloyd View me, Lord**

**Franck Final**

**769** Rejoice! The Lord is King

**814** Thy hand, O God Thornbury

**Acknowledgements**

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