

September 2021 – Week 5

Harvest

Leader: And God said “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with seed in it.” And it was so. And God said “See, I have given you every plant- yielding seed that is upon the face of the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.” And it was so. God saw that it was good.

Reflect on the word **HARVEST** and list how many words people can make from it.

Hymn or chorus

Traditional Harvest hymns are found in the “Times and Seasons” section of CH4 (228 – 233) but other hymns are suitable for Harvest. “Great is thy faithfulness” comes to mind but hymns of thanksgiving are generally suitable.

Read: Psalm 65

Prayer

Lord of all, we thank you for our universe with its infinite fascination and for our world with all its wonder,

and for the countryside with all its beauty. We thank you for life itself in all its variety.

Loving Lord,

HEAR OUR PRAYER

There is so much that gives us pleasure and that offers us fulfilment. There is so much that captures our imagination and challenges and inspires. There is so much to which we look forward with anticipation and which speaks to us of your great love.

Loving Lord,

HEAR OUR PRAYER

Forgive us for failing to appreciate your world as we should and for doing damage to it. Forgive us when we lose our sense of wonder and inquiry. And for treating your world as if it is ours by right rather than entrusted as your gift.

Loving Lord,

HEAR OUR PRAYER

And now hear us as we pray further in Jesus' words, saying:

OUR FATHER

Read: Deuteronomy 26 verses 1 – 11;
Matthew 6 verses 24 – 34

Reflection – keep to a maximum of 5 – 7 minutes.

There are many kinds of harvest and there are many ways in which you could reflect on them. Harvest is a time – perhaps particularly for those living in a city – to reflect on the challenges facing those who grow crops and rear livestock, whether to produce meat or dairy products.

This part of the service might involve music or poetry or something visual; it might involve silence.

Prayer

This a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for the Church and in particular for our congregations as people return to worship in our buildings and as the familiar pattern of Church life and activities becomes possible once again; for those involved in farming or any kind of food production; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

CLOSING PRAYER

CREATOR GOD RECONNECT US TO YOUR CREATION, TO ITS ORDER AND RESOURCES

REDEEMER GOD RECONCILE US TO YOUR CREATION, TO EACH OTHER AND TO YOU

SPIRIT GOD RENEW US TO LIVE WITHIN YOUR CREATION, AWARE OF ITS SEASONS AND OUR NEIGHBOURS' NEEDS

**GOD OF THE LAND THE SEAS AND THE SKIES BLESS US
AND MAKE US A BLESSING TO THOSE IN NEED IN YOUR
WORLD.
AMEN**