

# **A Service of Holy Communion for Harvest Festival**



**Everyone is welcome.** Thank you for being with us today – if you need any help please ask a sidesperson or churchwarden. If you are visiting, please make yourself known as you enter or leave the service. If you are unsure where to sit, a sidesperson will assist you. Refreshments are served after our morning services, please join us.

**Getting to know us.** Our weekly newsheet contains information about the parish and its activities. Please speak to one of the sides-persons or priests, as you leave, if you need more information and assistance. There is also a welcome leaflet that introduces the parish and tells you a little about us. Please take one. We would welcome your completed information page and any further inquiry.

**Gluten Free.** If you require a Gluten free wafer, please tell a sidesperson or churchwarden and then say to the minister giving Communion that this is what you need.

**A collection** is taken during the offertory hymn. Please respond generously to support the mission and ministry of this church. If you are a UK taxpayer, please give via a completed Gift Aid envelope to enhance your donation and enable us to reclaim tax. Your donations are very important as we have no outside funding. Thank you.

**Introduction to Harvest.** Historically, agricultural festivals gave expression to the sense of a proper humility before God as the source of all things, gratitude for his goodness, and the duty of stewarding the earth's resources. Those sentiments are still relevant in our increasingly urbanised society. Equally relevant is a practical concern for those who do not share the bounty and prosperity of this land in which we are so fortunate to live.

## **Opening Hymn**

*Remain standing*

## **Welcome**

*The President welcomes the congregation and introduces the service.*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Penitence**

While giving thanks for all that is good and worthwhile in our lives, let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor, and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

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 too often we ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy:

**forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless, and do not always care sufficiently 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.**

### **Absolution**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **The Collect for Harvest Festival**

Let us pray:

Creator of the fruitful earth, you made us stewards of all things. Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness, and steadfast wills to use your bounty well, that the whole human family, today and in generations to come, may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

*Sit*

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

#### **The Old Testament reading.**

*After each reading, the following response is used:*

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **The Psalm**

#### **The Epistle**

#### **The Gradual Hymn**

*Remain standing for the Gospel*

#### **The Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to:  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end: This is the Gospel of the Lord.*  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **The Sermon**

*Please sit after the Preacher's introduction.*

*After the sermon, a moment of silence is kept. Then all **stand** to say the Creed.*

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from  
heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of  
sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us offer our prayers to God for the life of the world  
and for all God's people in their daily life and work.

God, the beginning and end of all things, in your  
providence and care you watch unceasingly over all  
creation; we offer our prayers that in us and in all your  
people your will may be done, according to your wise and  
loving purpose in Christ our Lord.

Lord of all life:

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all through whom we receive sustenance  
and life; for farmers and agricultural workers, for  
packers, distributors, and company boards. As you have  
so ordered our life that we depend upon each other,  
enable us by your grace to seek the well-being of others  
before our own.

Lord of all creation:

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all engaged in research to safeguard crops against disease, and to produce abundant life among those who hunger and whose lives are at risk. Prosper the work of their hands and the searching of their minds, that their labour may be for the welfare of all.

Lord of all wisdom:

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for governments and aid agencies, and those areas of the world where there is disaster, drought, and starvation. By the grace of your Spirit, touch our hearts and the hearts of all who live in comfortable plenty, and make us wise stewards of your gifts.

Lord of all justice:

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are ill, remembering those in hospital and nursing homes and all who are known to us. In our parish prayers, we pray for ...

We pray for all who care for them. Give skill and understanding to all who work for their well-being.

Lord of all compassion:

**hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died, whom we entrust to your eternal love in the sure and certain hope of resurrection to new life. (In our parish prayers we commend to you ... and pray for all who mourn their passing.)

Lord of all peace:

**hear our prayer.**

We offer ourselves to your service, asking that by the Spirit at work in us, others may receive a rich harvest of love and joy and peace.



Lord of all faithfulness:  
**hear our prayer.**

God of grace, as you are ever at work in your creation, so fulfil your wise and loving purpose in us and in all for whom we pray, that with them and in all that you have made, your glory may be revealed and the whole earth give praise to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

*The congregation stands and the Peace is introduced:*

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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### **The Offertory Hymn**

*The Offertory hymn is sung, during which the bread and wine are placed on the altar and a collection is taken. At the conclusion of the offertory, a prayer is said over the collection.*

*Please remain standing.*

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the good things you give us. Prevent us from taking your gifts for granted.

Looking to you, in faith, use us, these offerings and what you have given us for your good purposes. **Amen.**

### **Prayer at the Preparation of the Table**

*The following prayer is said:*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; you bring forth bread from the earth.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; you create the fruit of the vine.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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.**

Hearts and minds and souls and voices we lift in thanks and praise to you, Lord God of heaven and earth. You made the earth as a playground for us to enjoy your glory and yet we consistently turn your abundance into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness and your simplicity into our corruption.

In Noah you drew all the goodness of your creation into one ark and in Moses you placed the law of love into the ark of your covenant.

In Christ you turned the wood of manger and cross into the ark of your salvation.

And so we rejoice to thank you, singing, with all the company of heaven, the hymn of your unending praise.

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

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

God our rock, to trust in you is to build a house on solid ground that will never shift through wind and rain. You make and renew your church through your Word of life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon your people, that all who eat and drink in your name may behold you face to face and taste and see that you are good.

By that same Spirit, come down upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup. Again, he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Renewing God, you finally brought the ark of hope to solid ground and gave your creation new birth,

Heal your stricken world today, that the groaning of the soil, the skies and the seas may foretell the greater glory you have prepared for your time of eternal covenant grace.

As you justify your children by faith, uphold all who face injustice and neglect and cruelty.

Hasten that day when your new heaven and new earth will engulf the distress and disappointment and destruction of your people, and you will be all in all, everlasting God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Sit*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Created in God's image and by his love; as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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,  
Save us in the time of trial  
And deliver us from evil,  
For the kingdom, the power  
And the glory are yours,  
Now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*Priest breaks the Bread*

“I am the bread of life,” says the Lord. “Whoever comes to me will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never thirst.” **Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in him!**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

*The president says:*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*One of the following prayers may be said privately in preparation for receiving communion:*

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his

blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So, cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

*All who normally receive communion are invited to receive the sacrament. If you would rather receive a blessing, please bring this booklet with you as an indication of your wish.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*The Priest says the post Communion Collect.*

Let us pray:

God of our hope, through this communion we catch a glimpse the depth of all your blessings. Nourished in these holy mysteries may we, with our lives, give you continual thanks and praise. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared the bread and wine of the kingdom: 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.**

*Stand*

### **The Blessing and Dismissal**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

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 his fruits of love, joy, and peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Hymn**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Acknowledgements:**

Excerpts from *the Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* and *Times and Seasons* are copyright the Archbishop's Council 2000, 2006.

The Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada. 1985.

The Eucharistic Prayer is taken from: *Joining the Angels' Song: Eucharistic Prayers for Sundays and Holy Days, Years A, B & C*, Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher, 2016