

Welcome and Call to Worship

I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to everyone who receives this service wherever and whenever it is read. Because of the season I have decided to base this At Home Service around Harvest Festival.

Isaiah 41:10 do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand

Opening Prayer

Loving Father of all creation we look to the heavens on a clear autumn night and wonder at the vastness of your creation.

Loving Father of all creation we see the ripening seeds and the butterflies' wings and within their design is the artistry of life painted by your eternal brush strokes.

Loving Father of all creation in prayer and meditation we listen for your voice we know the whispered reply within our souls was powerful enough to bring the universe into being and yet listens to every word of our prayer.

Loving Father of all creation we strive to do your will, if that road leads us into shadows and darkness help us to be a beacon to bring your light into an ever darkening world.

Loving Father of all creation help us to hold to your word that it may give us strength that we may know your love is the centre of all things.

Psalm 124 (Message)

¹ Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!

² Serve the LORD with gladness;

Come before His presence with singing.

³ Know that the LORD, He *is* God;

It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves;

We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

⁴ Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.

⁵ For the LORD *is* good;

His mercy *is* everlasting,

And His truth *endures* to all generations.

Hymn Come, you thankful people, come

Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!
fruit and crops are gathered in
now, before the storms begin:
God our maker will provide
for our needs to be supplied;
come, with all his people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

All the world is God's own field,
harvests for his praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown
here for joy or sorrow grown:
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear-
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come
and shall bring his harvest home;
He himself on that great day,
worthless things shall take away,
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his care for evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come-
bring your final harvest home!
gather all your people in
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there together purified,
ever thankful at your side-
come, with all your angels, come,
bring that glorious harvest home!

Prayers of intercession

Lord of all creation, we humbly bow our heads before you, and come together in prayer. The universe and all that's contained within it is yours and at this time of Harvest we praise and thank you for the beauty and wonder of all your gifts.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of the Harvest, we lift to you all those who have no harvest to celebrate. We pray for people the world over who, for whatever reason, are hungry and thirsty. We pray for those who are homeless, those who live every day with abuse, intimidation and fear. We pray for those who struggle to survive, those separated from their loved ones and for refugees everywhere who are in desperate need of help, love, peace and safety.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of the Harvest, we praise and thank you for the Food Bank supporting those in need in our own town and throughout the country. We pray for those who give donations and those who manage these facilities may all they do be a blessing to those who receive.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord of the Harvest, we lift to you those we know who are in need. Whether their need is physical, emotional, financial, or the loss of a loved one we can be certain that you are there sharing their emotion and pain. Lord may all those in need feel your healing arms around them consoling them and touching their lives.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

All these things we ask in the name of your son our saviour Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

Hymn - I Come To The Garden

I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses

And He walks with me and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known

He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet

The birds hush their singing,
And the melody that He give to me
Within my heart is to ringing.

And He walks with me and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known

I stay in the garden with Him,
Though the night around me is falling.
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling.

And He walk with me and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which 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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.

Reading

Please open your Bible and read **Matthew 6.25-34 Do Not Worry**

Having read these verses spend a few moments in personal prayer opening your hearts to the words.

Reflection

Today we are thinking about Harvest Festival, when as Christians we celebrate Gods provision with Worship, Prayer and Gifts, Thanking God for the Harvest just received and his blessing on the harvest yet to come. Harvest festival coincides with the Jewish festival of Sukkot which is one of the most joyful festivals on the Jewish calendar. "Sukkot," a Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest. The festival also commemorates the 40 years of Jewish wandering in the desert. Sukkot is also called Z'man Simchateinu (Season of Our Rejoicing),

So let's make this day a new day, a day filled with faith, a day filled with the love of Jesus, a day when we put our trust in the Lord and truly start a Season of our Rejoicing.

I have fond memories of this time of year, as a child I would come home from school and each day our cottage would be filled with different aromas. If it was sweet and sticky it would be Jam and if I was really lucky it would be blackcurrant, because there is nothing better than a warm scone, blackcurrant jam and fresh cream. If the aroma was strong and acidic and your eyes started to water, it would be chutney or pickles of some kind. Things were very different: Supply lines were a walk up the garden or to the hen house. No weekly trips to the super market or deliveries from a brightly painted van. Shopping was local and everything had its season.

Today we have so much more available, fruits, vegetables, fish and meats from across the world and yet so many rely on food banks and charity many areas of the world suffer famine.

So today as we celebrate Gods provision lets each of us give a thought for those less fortunate than ourselves and celebrate Gods love by doing something positive to help someone else in whatever way we can.

The words from today's reading are pertinent and personally I need to read this passage at the start of each day as I have wasted so much time and energy worrying about things that have never happened or if they did happen worrying about them didn't help to solve the situation.

At first it might seem that Jesus is being idealistic. Do not worry 'about your life - what you eat or what you drink or what you wear'. It is natural to have concerns, how can we not worry about provision for ourselves and family, for friends in trouble, about work and about our relationships.

Jesus reminds us that it is not about us it is about God and our interaction with God. Jesus transforms the way we think. He reminds us that the source of everything is the goodness and creativity and sheer abundant generosity of God our Father. We need to learn to separate concerns and worries as the difference is not always clear but it is very important.

Concerns we can leave in prayer at the foot of the cross, but worries we can't let go and they give a foothold for enemy to enter our life.

At times like this we need to look to scripture for guidance

1 Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

We need to seek Gods kingdom and righteousness first, and then we can be confident that our needs will be met.

Therefore, as we celebrate The Season of Our Rejoicing as we celebrate Gods Provision lets each of us give a thought for those less fortunate than ourselves leaving our worries at the foot of the cross and celebrate Gods love by doing something positive to help someone else in whatever way we can.

Hymn We plough the fields and scatter

We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand.
God 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 heaven above.
We thank you, God, we thank you,
God, for all your love.

You only are the Maker
of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star.
The winds and waves obey you,
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give our daily bread.

Refrain

We thank you, then, Creator,
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 your love imparts,
and what you most would welcome:
our humble, thankful hearts.

Refrain

Grace Prayer

**Wherever we are, we can
share the grace together.**

**May the grace of our Lord
Jesus Christ, the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy
Spirit be with us all, now and
evermore.**

Amen

Poem

Come, pensive Autumn, with thy clouds and storms
And falling leaves and pastures lost to flowers;
A luscious charm hangs on thy faded forms,
More sweet than Summer in her loveliest hours,
Who in her blooming uniform of green
Delights with samely and continued joy:
But give me, Autumn, where thy hand hath been,
For there is wildness that can never cloy -
The russet hue of fields left bare, and all
The tints of leaves and blossoms ere they fall.
In thy dull days of clouds a pleasure comes,
Wild music softens in thy hollow winds;
And in thy fading woods a beauty blooms
That's more than dear to melancholy minds.

John Clare

Just a thought

Have your heart right with Christ, and he will visit
you often, and so turn weekdays into Sundays,
meals into sacraments, homes into temples, and
earth into heaven."

— C.H. Spurgeon

Sending and Closing Prayer

Lord, we thank you for all of your creation, for the
food we eat, for trees and flowers, for fish,
animals and the birds of the air. Above all we
thank you for the gift of people, for family, friends
and the stranger we have yet to meet.

Lord, help us to remember that everything we
have comes from you.

May we have generous hearts that love and
share with others.

May we have respectful hearts that care for your
precious creation.

Lord, help us to share your words and your love
with all those we know and especially to those
we do not know but who need our help.

Lord hear our prayers in the name of Jesus
Christ our Lord, Amen