

HARVEST PRAYERS

Bring to fruition, Creator God, the work of your kingdom.
Make us part of that joyful harvest
in which your loving purpose is completed.
Help us to realize how important the smallest words
and deeds are in the context of eternity.



At harvest time, when we
remember your goodness
make us grateful also for all we
have received
from the labour of others
who have sown the seeds of
faith, hope and love in our lives.
Author unknown

Lord, your harvest is the harvest of love;
love sown in the hearts of people;
love that spreads out like the branches of a great tree
covering all who seek its shelter;
love that inspires and recreates;
love that is planted in the weak and the weary,
the sick and the dying.
The harvest of your love is the life that reaches
through the weeds of sin
and death
to the sunlight of
resurrection.

Lord, nurture my days
with dew of forgiveness,
that the harvest of my
life might be your joy.
Frank Topping



Prayer Bulletin October 2017

*'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer'
Romans 12:12*

*We hope this bulletin will encourage your prayer throughout this month—individually,
in Prayer Triplets and in Life Groups.
Our weekly church prayer meeting is on Wednesdays at 9am.*

*“As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night,
shall not cease.”
Genesis 8:22*



Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest
may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Common Worship. Additional Collects © Archbishops' Council, 2000)

Psalm 67: 5 - 7

*“Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.”*



THOUGHTS ON HARVEST THANKSGIVING by Nancy Wallace

Many churches have a Harvest Thanksgiving during Autumn. This was started by a Vicar in Cornwall in the 19th century, but its roots are much older. From the time that stone-age people changed from a nomadic to an agricultural way of life, the beginnings and end of harvest seasons became causes for celebration and associated rituals.

When the ancient Hebrews settled in Canaan they adapted their worship to the farming year. In this good land God promised they would enjoy:

"...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..." (Deuteronomy 8: 8 - 9)

In enjoying this plenty, they were instructed not to forget God the giver. Harvest celebrations were established at the beginnings and end of harvest to thank God and be reminded to live by God's ways. These (together with ancient pagan harvest celebrations) are the origins of Christian harvest festival services, once mostly celebrated in the UK on Lammas Day, 1 August at the beginning of harvest. Now, thanks to Robert Hawker of Morwenstow, usually in early autumn.



Harvest Thanksgiving reminds us to give thanks to God always. It's also a reminder that life is more than food. We need daily bread in more than once sense. Physically and spiritually our lives depend on God, who sent Jesus as the Bread of Life. The story of Jesus feeding 5000 hungry people with a boy's picnic is a wonderful picture of the generosity of God who knows what we need before we ask. The gift of God in Jesus is greater than any material gift. Jesus said *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty"* (v.35).



(Jesus said)

"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15: 4 - 5

"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things."

Galatians 5: 22 - 23

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ...having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God."

Philippians 1: 6, 11

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love.

(chorus from hymn by Mattias Claudius 1782, translated by Jane Campbell)

