

## Harvest

**This resource has been compiled by Joyce Bond, Connor Diocese.  
It may be used in a variety of ways, including weekly reflections,  
material for a Quiet Day or as the basis for a service.**

### **HARVEST**

**Fruits of the Spirit:**

**Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness,  
Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control.**

**We give thanks for the fruits of the Spirit  
we see around us.**

***Galatians 5 22, 23***

Lord Jesus, many people have full larders,  
with bread enough and to spare,  
and yet inwardly they are hungry  
for the things of the Spirit.

You are the Bread of Life:  
without you our hearts go hungry,  
our lives are empty.

Help us constantly to feed on you by faith,  
that we may know the abundant life  
you came to bring us all,  
for the glory of your name.

*Llewellyn Cumings.*

May the love of the Father,  
the tenderness of the Son,  
and the presence of the Spirit,  
gladden your heart  
and bring peace to your soul,  
this day and all days. **Amen**

### **HARVEST - Creation**

Lord God, you promised to Noah that while the earth remains, seed-time and harvest,  
cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease. *Genesis 8:22.*

**Praise for the Harvest – Psalm 65: 8-13 (The Dramatised Bible)**

O God, it is right for us to praise you  
because you answer our prayers

You care for the land and water it:

**and make it rich and fertile.**

You fill the running streams with water:

**and irrigate the earth.**

You soften the ground with showers:

**and make the young crops grow.**

You crown the year with goodness:  
**and give us a plentiful harvest.**  
The pastures are filled with flocks:  
**the hillsides are clothed with joy.**  
The fields are covered with grain  
**they shout for joy and sing.**

Thank you, Lord for the seasons:  
Spring for a time to sow,  
Summer for a time to grow,  
Autumn for a time to reap,  
Winter for a time to sleep. **Amen**  
*Elizabeth Reynolds, St John's MU, Lurgan*

We thank you for the reliability of this earth, for the variety of the seasons,  
the cycle of day and night and your vital gifts of rain and sun.  
**Lord of the Harvest hear our prayer**

We thank you for the miracle of growth, for all who work on the land,  
sowing and reaping in their season. We ask your blessing on their work  
**Lord of the Harvest hear our prayer**

**Praise the Lord of the Harvest  
and forget not all his benefits.**

### **HARVEST - God's bountiful Harvest**

*Jesus reminds us of God's care for his creation:*

Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? *Matthew 6:26 (NRSV)*

#### ***Let us reflect on those who work in the Harvest supply chain...***

We thank you Lord for our daily food, for cupboards full with varied foods.

We pray for farm safety as farmers sow and reap crops; For breeders and shepherds who care for animals. For bakers, packers, processors, producers, hauliers and tradesmen who fill our shops and supermarkets with food.

We thank you for the healthcare we have received during the pandemic and all who work in Hospitals and Medical Centres, frontline workers keeping us safe.

We pray for all who work in industry and commerce to supply us with goods and services.

We pray for safety for all who engage in the harvest of the seas, those who travel to bring us food from other lands, by land, sea or air, remembering many who toil in dangerous situations.

Creator God, we thank you for the wonder and beauty of creation, for the miracle and gift of life itself. We thank you for the farmers who work in fields on farms, for fishermen who gather the harvest of the seas; for all engaged in the commercial and industrial life of nations that they may receive a just reward for their labours.

**O Lord hear our prayer.**

Bless to us O God

the sun that shines above us  
The rain that falls upon us,  
The air that sustains us,  
The love that binds us. **Amen**

### **HARVEST - Treating our neighbour as ourselves**

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

We pray for our communities and for those in positions of authority in our local areas.

Forgive us Lord when we take the labours of others for granted.  
We demand cheap food and products without thinking of the welfare of others.  
Lord, help us to recognise the difference between satisfaction and smugness.  
Make us thankful and content with what we receive and be more generous to others.  
**Lord of the Harvest hear our prayer**

We pray for the Food Banks and Agencies who work in our communities helping those who have fallen on difficult times. Help us to remember that our neighbour is our friend.  
**Lord of the Harvest hear our prayer**

We pray for all who suffer from famine, drought and disasters, war and oppression.  
We pray for people born into situations where disease and death are prevalent without support, food or medical help.  
**Lord of the Harvest hear our prayer**

### **HARVEST - Justice for all**

O let the nations rejoice and be glad,  
for you will judge the peoples righteously  
and govern the nations upon earth.  
*Psalm 67: 4*

Lord, lead all nations into ways where they will work for the betterment of mankind.  
Give our Governments wisdom, guide scientists and industrialists at every level  
to make practical provision for climate change.

Forgive us where we have not challenged the economic and political systems  
that maintain inequalities where millions starve.

Almighty God in whose Kingdom justice and  
mercy meet, peace and righteousness meet,  
We pray for the transformation of the rules of our world.  
Transform and renew the hearts of all in authority that as they negotiate trade agreements,  
they may seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you. **Amen**  
*www.ccow.org.uk*

We pray for all involved with Fair Trade:  
We pray for a genuine commitment to fairer trade for all  
creating a world where everyone can have fullness of life.

### **HARVEST - Our responsibilities**

Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.  
*Hebrews 13:16*

Let us reflect on our responsibilities, our negligence in caring for your earth,  
as your people have wasted, misused, or taken for granted what you have provided.

Teach us Lord, to respond to the needs of others by using our time, our talents, and our  
money for the benefit of others and to send labourers into your harvest.

Help us to recognise our responsibility to you Lord, and our neighbours, so that  
in all we say, or think, or do we live for your glory and work for your kingdom.  
May God continue to send out labourers into his harvest. **Amen.**

### **THE HARVEST OF THE SOUL**

**Jesus said to his disciples "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few"**  
*St. Matthew 9:37*

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power  
and the glory and the victory and the majesty. All things come from you O Lord  
and we give you hearty thanks for the blessings of harvest.

**The Fruit of Silence is Prayer**  
**The Fruit of Prayer is Faith**  
**The Fruit of Faith is Love**  
**The Fruit of Love is Service**  
**The Fruit of Service is Peace**

Surrounded by the beauty of flowers and fruits of Harvest we thank you God for the  
loveliness of Creation. We pray for those who are blind or whose eyesight is fading and  
cannot see the beauty around them.

*Beyond this bread, we look to the bread of heaven,  
beyond this fruit we look to the fruits of eternal life  
beyond the beauty of the flowers around us we look to the beauty that will not fade;  
beyond human achievement we look to you Lord God.*

We thank you for all God's people serving in various aspects of ministry,  
for refreshment of mind and spirit through the ministry of our Church.  
We pray for those who do not know of God's love for them. We pray for ourselves as MU  
members and mission agencies, as together we tell of Jesus Christ and his love for us.

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back  
May the rain fall softly on your field  
And may God hold you in hallow of his hand.  
*Celtic Blessing*

