

PARISH OF ESHER  
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

# All Age Eucharist and Harvest Thanksgiving



*'Speak to the people of Israel and say to them:  
When you enter the land that I am giving you and  
you reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the  
first fruits of your harvest to the priest.'*

Leviticus 23.10



Opening Piano Music  
Reaper's Song and Rustic Song  
Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

## The Gathering

*The minister greets the people.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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

**and also with you.**

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said.*

## Opening Prayer

Creator God, you breathe your own life into us;  
you give us the gift of life every day.  
You placed us on this earth with its flowers and fruits,  
its minerals and waters, with its living creatures of grace and beauty.  
You give us the care of the earth.  
Help us to honour you by honouring your creation.

**Amen.**

## Harvest Acclamation

**The earth has yielded its harvest;  
God, our God, has blessed us.**

You visit the earth and water it;

**you make it very plenteous.**

You soften the ground with showers;

**and bless the increase of it.**

You crown the year with your goodness;

**And your paths overflow with plenty.**

The meadows are clothed with sheep;

**The valleys stand so thick with corn,**

**They shout for joy and sing.**

**The earth has yielded its harvest;**

**God, our God, has blessed us.**

## Prayer for Forgiveness

When we are unkind to people,

**and forget that all are God's children;**

when we are careless with the animals,

**and forget they too are God's creation;**

when we ill-treat the land,

**and forget it is the splendour of God himself;**

forgive us, O God of love, and reconcile us to yourself,

to one another and to your Creation.

**Teach us all**

**that the earth and all its fullness is yours,**

**the world and those who dwell in it.**

Remind us that your Son too enjoyed the fruits of harvest in Galilee,

and joins us now as we celebrate together today.

**Help us always to care for the gift of life,**

**now and always.**

**Amen.**

*The minister says:*

May the God of love bring you back to himself,  
forgive you your sins, and assure you of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*The following is sung by the choir.*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Father.  
To God be glory for ever! To God be glory for ever!  
Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.  
Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, Son of the Father.  
Glory to God, glory to God, Son of the Father.  
To God be glory for ever! To God be glory for ever!  
Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.  
Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.  
To God be glory for ever! To God be glory for ever!  
Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.  
Alleluia, amen. Alleluia, amen.

## **A Harvest Prayer**

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.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Readings

*For our first reading preceding the Gospel reading, we are using 'The Message', a paraphrase of the Bible, written by Eugene Peterson. You can find the NRSV translation of today's readings in the pewsheet.*

## 2 Corinthians 9.6-end

Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it, He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon. His right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God. This relief offering is a prod to live at your very best, showing your gratitude to God by being openly obedient to the plain meaning of the Message of Christ. You show your gratitude through your generous offerings to your needy brothers and sisters, and really toward everyone. Meanwhile, moved by the extravagance of God in your lives, they'll respond by praying for you in passionate intercession for whatever you need. Thank God for this gift, his gift. No language can praise it enough!

*At the end:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

*The following hymn is read aloud by all.*

Come, ye thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest-home:  
all be safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!

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

For the Lord our God shall come,  
and shall take the harvest home;  
from his field shall purge away  
all that doth offend, that day;  
give his angels charge at last  
in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in the garner evermore.

Then, thou Church Triumphant, come,  
raise the song of harvest-home;  
all be safely gathered in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there for ever purified  
in God's garner to abide:  
come ten thousand angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest-home!

## Gospel Reading

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Luke 12.16-30

Then Jesus told them this story: "The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest.' Then he said, 'Here's what I'll do: I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I'll say to myself, Self, you've done well! You've got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!' Just then God showed up and said, 'Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods - who gets it?'"

"That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God."

He continued this subject with his disciples. "Don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or if the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your inner life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the ravens, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, carefree in the care of God. And you count far more.

"Has anyone by fussing before the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? If fussing can't even do that, why fuss at all? Walk into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They don't fuss with their appearance - but have you ever seen colour and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them. If God gives such attention to the wildflowers, most of them never even seen, don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you?"

"What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don't be afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself."

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Address

*A short piece of piano music will be played.*

## Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*The minister introduces the prayers.*

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to the Father.

*This response may be used.*

Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## The Peace

*The minister introduces the Peace.*

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.**

## Hymn

*The following hymn will be sung by the choir.*

We plough the fields, and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand:  
he 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;  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
for all his love.*

He only is the maker  
of all things near and far;  
he paints the wayside flower,  
he lights the evening star;  
the winds and waves obey him,  
by him the birds are fed;  
much more to us, his children,  
he gives our daily bread.

We thank you then, O Father,  
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 thou most desirest,  
our humble, thankful hearts.

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### Preparation of the Table

*A piece of music may be played.*

With this bread that we bring  
**we shall remember Jesus.**

With this wine that we bring  
**we shall remember Jesus.**

Bread for his body, wine for his blood,  
gifts from God to his table we bring.

**We shall remember Jesus.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

*Question: Why is it right to give thanks and praise?*

*Answer: Listen, and we will hear.*

Lord of all life, you created the universe,  
where all living things reflect your glory.  
You give us this great and beautiful earth,  
to discover and to cherish.

You give us the fish in the sea,  
the birds of the air,  
and every plant and tree;  
the life that sleeps in the winter earth,  
and awakens again in the spring.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,  
to join with the angels and proclaim your 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.**

We thank you, loving Father,  
because, when we turned away,  
you sent Jesus, your Son.  
He gave his life for us on the cross  
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

*Question: Why do we share this bread and wine?*

*Answer: Listen, and we will hear.*

On the night before he died,  
when darkness had fallen,  
Jesus took bread.  
He gave thanks, broke it,  
and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,  
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.  
As you feed us with these gifts,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
and change us more and more  
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

*Question: How do we follow Jesus Christ?*

*Answer: Listen, and we will hear.*

Help us, Father, to love one another,  
as we look forward to that day  
when suffering is ended,  
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints  
we give you glory, through Jesus Christ,  
in the strength of the Spirit,  
today and for ever.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The minister breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*The choir sings the Agnus Dei.*

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

## Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*Please come forward for Holy Communion (in one kind only) as directed by the president and/or the stewards. Communion will be administered in silence, and so before the administration the president will say, 'The body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life', and all who intend to receive are invited to reply, 'Amen'.*

*Those not receiving Holy Communion today may wish to pray this prayer:*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day.

**Amen.**

*During the distribution, the choir will sing an anthem.*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

*The post communion prayer is said:*

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

## Poem

### **Out of the Land**

The oak brown earth,  
throughout its selfless centuries,  
has yielded innumerable gatherings and gleanings,  
expansive banquets at the equinox.

The ground gives, and does not count the cost,  
and labours without reward.

The acreage a nursing mother, we its thirsting sucklings.

The earth is longer than us, and further.

The furrows are memorials,  
recalling the wide crescents of heavy yoke hooves  
and the lighter steps of the summer barley boys who scythed  
and soon followed the beckoning finger to the barracks.

Back then, all lanes 'led to France',  
this soil, both feast and elegy.

The pinafore girls who stacked wheat,

weaved corn dollies, became mothers;  
each unique, beyond village gravestones, now.  
And in the plaited hedgerows,  
where the spider weaves its lace rarities,  
the lineage of the linnet and thrush  
laments and praises;  
their ancestral songs, a thanksgiving.

And on full, fertile nights when the harvest moon  
moves through crops of clouds like a lunar plough,  
we should revere, for this is, again and again,  
the abundant season.

Even when built on, sprouting pavements,  
roundabouts and cul-de-sacs,  
the land has not disappeared.

Like us, it is waiting for a better, promised city,  
one of permanence in which all are sustained  
from the outlying eternal meadows, the pastures green,  
the First Land, the Without Thirst Land.

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## Harvest Blessing

*The harvest gifts are blessed.*

Father, bless these gifts which we offer in your name.  
May those who receive them know your love  
and find a rich blessing.

**Amen.**

*Notices may be given.*

## The Dismissal

May the road rise to meet you,  
may the wind be always at your back,  
may the sun shine warm upon your face,  
may the rains fall softly upon your fields.  
Until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with you and those whom you love,  
now and always.

**Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

**In the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

## Closing Piano Music

Harvest, from The Seasons Op. 37a  
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)



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All Age Eucharist and Harvest Thanksgiving Order of Service 2020