

**Welcome to our Service
St Peter de Merton, Bedford
4th October 2020**



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Welcome to our Harvest Thanksgiving!

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father,
and our Lord Jesus Christ be with you
And also with you

We stand before the throne of God with
countless crowds from every nation and race,
tribe and language

**Blessing and glory and wisdom,
Thanksgiving and honour, power and might
Be to our God for ever and ever
Amen**

Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReuzmyzKsUw>)

Thankfulness:

What are you thankful for this harvest time?

- All of creation
- For farmers and all who bring our food from field to table
- The weather and the seasons
- Our homes, our family and friends
- For our communities
- For all who enable us to see the fruit of the spirit in action – peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, joy, goodness

A Harvest Thanksgiving:

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it; the world and all that lives in it.



Image by Amber_Avalona from Pixabay

**All the animals of the forest are the Lord's and so are the cattle upon a thousand hills.
The Lord makes grass grow for the cattle and plants for us to cultivate.**



Image by Pixel-Sepp from Pixabay

The Lord brings forth food from the earth, wine that gladdens our hearts, oil to make our faces shine, bread that sustains our hearts.



Image by Couleur from Pixabay

The Lord makes springs pour water into the valleys; it flows between the mountains.



Image by FoYu from Pixabay

Thanks be to God



Image by 4653867 from Pixabay

The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches.



Image by Kandhalkeshvala from Pixabay

**For all who cooperate and collaborate with God to bring food to our tables,
For farmers, growers, packers and processors, for breeders, stock people, shepherds and dairy-farmers.**



Image by Free-Photos from Pixabay

For distributors, hauliers, retailers and stallholders, for chefs, cooks and creative entrepreneurs



Image by Ulleo from Pixabay

Confession:

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 ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough 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.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Hymn: We Plough the Fields and Scatter

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccVEjKfKAV4>)

Symbols of Harvest:

Soil - that sustains life, a symbol of God's whole creation and goodness.

Potatoes – a symbol of the produce of our fields.

Toy Lamb - a symbol of the flocks and herds of animals and birds that give us meat.

Flowers – a symbol of the fruits, berries, vegetables and flowers that come from fields and orchards and gardens.

Seeds – a symbol of next year's crops and of the trust we have in God for the future.

Bread - a symbol of the fruits of human labour and the physical means through which we receive the strength to labour.

Empty Bowl - a symbol of the harvests that fail, and those who suffer hunger and famine.

Bible Reading: Genesis 41: 14-36

(<https://bible.oremus.org/?q1=470525924>)

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Sermon:

Hymn: Come Ye Thankful People Come

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FqdCskCOQE>)

The Creed:

Let us declare our faith.

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

Intercessions:

We pray for the world and its leaders; for justice and peace and the end of oppression.

For all who are vulnerable; the sick and the bereaved; for key workers; for our communities, families and friends.

Collect

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

Our Father, who 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 those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen

Hymn: The Spirit Lives to Set Us Free

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDcbYk-9C-Y>)

The Blessing:

God the Father, who created the world, give
you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.

Lord, send us out into your world

God the Son, who redeemed the world, inspire
you to go out as labourers into his harvest.

Lord, send us out into your world

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the
whole of creation, help you bear his fruits of
love, joy and peace.

Lord, send us out into your world

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with
you now and forever more. **Amen**

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000) and
New Patterns for Worship (2002) Common Worship: Times and Seasons
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Further material has been adapted from The Farming Community Network
Harvest Thanksgiving Service

YouTube links are suggested for those unable to join us in the church building
or via Zoom.