

*We sing or say*

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 wind and waves obey him, by him the birds are fed;  
much more to us, his children, he gives his daily bread.

We thank thee 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 thy love imparts,  
and, what thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.

### **Going out to serve God**

Dear God, help us to live out this day in our lives as those who share with friend and stranger, those who give generously to others, and those who live with thankful hearts day by day, through Jesus, our friend and Saviour. Amen.

### **Blessing**

May God's joy be in our hearts  
May God's peace be in our world  
May God's love be known between us  
and the blessing of God almighty  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be upon you today and always.  
**Amen.**

*place hand on heart  
sweep hand out in front  
hold hands or touch palms*

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## **The Parish of Hempsted with St Mary de Lode and St Mary de Crypt, Gloucester** *in partnership with Gloucester Cathedral*

### **HARVEST FESTIVAL 10 October 2021**



### **Opening Greeting**

Loving God, we thank you for every good thing in our lives.  
Help us to hear your word and to follow your way  
as we praise your name this Harvest Festival.

*We sing or say* (Tune: *Morning has broken*)

Lord we have come here, bearing the first fruits,  
human hands shaping all that you give;  
richly rewarded, thankfully praising,  
eager to serve you, in whom we live.

Deep in the turmoil of daily living  
seeds of the Gospel, lavishly sown;  
stirring to turn our yesterday's pain to  
fruits of tomorrow, patiently grown.

Breath of the spirit, fire of the new life  
risen Lord Jesus, make us your own;  
friends and disciples struggling for justice  
choose for your harvest seeds you have sown.

There in our world is seed time and harvest,  
women and men for whom Jesus died;  
there are the lives he yearns to transfigure  
those are the homes where God will abide.

### **We say Sorry to God and we Receive God's Forgiveness**

God of creation, the earth is yours with its beauty and goodness, its rich and overflowing provision.

We confess to you our selfishness in not sharing the gifts of the earth fairly.  
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

We confess to you our lack of care for the world you have given us.  
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

We confess to you our failure to protect resources for others.  
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

May the God of love call you back, forgive you your sins,  
and assure you of eternal love in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

### **The Prayer for Today**

Creator God you make 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.

**Bible reading: Matthew 6:25-31**

**Reflection (attached)**



### **We Declare our Faith**

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe. Amen.

*1 Corinthians 15:3-7*

### **Intercessions**

*We name before God those people and situations we wish to pray for  
ending with **The Lord's Prayer.***

### **A Prayer in Lockdown**

Ever present God, be with us in our isolation, be close to us in our distancing, be healing in our sickness, be joy in our sadness, be light in our darkness, be wisdom in our confusion, be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar, that when the doors reopen we may with the zeal of Pentecost inhabit our communities and speak of your goodness to an emerging world. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

### **The Peace**

The harvest of the spirit is love, joy and peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*We offer one another a sign of God's peace*

