

Morning Prayer

at home with your
Parish Church

in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Enough

Harvest 2024

Sunday October 6th

Preparation

You may wish to mark your time of worship by arranging a table with a cloth, a candle and your Bible, or anything, such as flowers, that makes it a special reflective space. If you have access to some autumn leaves, chestnuts, rose hips or something evocative of the season you could arrange those. A tin or two from the cupboard, or some fruit can represent the harvest. If you wish, have paper and pencil to hand.

Music: click on the links to hear and join in the music. Click stop at the end of each.

HYMN [Come, ye thankful people, come](#)

1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest-home!
All is 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!

2. We ourselves are 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.

3. For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his 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 his garner evermore.

4. 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!

At home, we pause to remember those gathered in Church who, in turn remember us.

We take this time, united in Christ, to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may find new ways to serve God.

Prayers of Penitence

We confess:

Look at the things you have assembled to represent the Harvest and Autumn season, a reminder that all we have come from the earth. We then pray for those times when our actions have not borne good fruits and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

Silence

We confess to you our lack of care for the world you have given us

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly

Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our failure to protect resources for others

Lord, have mercy.

FORGIVENESS is prayed for at home and in church is declared by the priest:

[May] the almighty and merciful God grant [us] pardon and forgiveness of all [our] sins, time for amendment of life, time to reverse environmental damage, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Word of God

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Timothy 6:6-10

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

PSALM 8 *If you are able, you might stand to read this psalm aloud.*

O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honour.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

GOSPEL READING Matthew 6:25-33

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We stand and turn to look in the direction of Church, to emphasise our gathering around a precious, shared story:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All: I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the Faith of the Church

This is our faith.

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

Prayers

We pray THE COLLECT for Harvest

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

We pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All: Our Father in heaven...

FOR REFLECTION

Look as closely as you can at the objects, flowers you have assembled. The sculptor Henry Moore said that if you draw, no matter what the standard of your drawing, you become more attentive to what you are drawing. You notice details, contrasts, more and more as you gaze and try to represent it with your pencil. You could do this today if you have time. Or, you can draw with words, describing aloud what you see before you. No word is too extravagant or inappropriate. Just express as much as you can about what you observe. You might then hold the leaf, flower, object – yes, even if it's a tin of beans – in your cupped hands for a moment, rather as the Priest holds the bread when saying Jesus' words of institution.

Attentiveness makes it impossible not to honour what we attend to. Any tendency to take for granted melts away. Attentiveness leads to wonder, then wonder to gratitude. Gratitude is the most powerful antidote to greed. We Began our Bible readings with an enormously positive statement (1 Tim 6:6) which can also be translated: "S/He is truly rich who is content with what s/he has." Then we plunged down into the depths of greed and named its destructiveness, powerfully naming how the greedy and the rich, who may indeed hurt others in their acquisition, end up wounding themselves.

Then we heard Jesus marginalise the anxieties we understandably feel that can, if unchecked, lead to such greed. It is all the more powerful that he says this to people living in a largely subsistence economy, for whom each day's provision was precarious indeed.

He encourages attentiveness for the reasons we have just experienced. He presents us with the antidote Paul knows we need.

Perhaps we are ready to pray for the world at Harvest time.

We turn our reflection into PRAYERS:

Consider the kinds of greed that current conflicts represent: an urgent, anxious sense of not enough land, of not enough power, not enough time, not enough food, not enough room for multiple religions.

Begin to pray with the word "enough," asking for transformation of our attitudes, that humanity may begin to recognise the beauty of the word "enough." With re-kindled gratitude, and a sense of "enough," ironically, we might discover that there is in fact more than enough to go around, bestowed by the God who fed five thousand with a few loaves.

In our community we pray for those who are unwell: among them Venda McCollin and Ian Cooke.

We remember those who have died: among them Jenny Watling.

HYMN [We plough the fields and scatter](#)

1. 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 raind.

*All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.*

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

3. 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.

*(words: Matthias Claudius, trans Jane Montgomery Campbell;
music: Johann Abraham Peter Schulz, harm John Bacchus Dykes)*

Imagining all whom we miss, we pray for each other:

**The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England

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