

CELEBRATION OF HARVEST

A HYMN

EXCLAMATION

The earth is the Lord's, **and all that is upon it**
Created and creative things, **fruit and fruitfulness**
Springtime and summer, **seedtime and harvest.**

THANKSGIVING

For the promise of harvest contained within a seed. **We thank you.**
For the oak tree within an acorn. **We thank you.**
The bread within a grain. **We thank you.**
The apple within a pip. **We thank you.**
The mystery of nature gift wrapped for us to sow. **We thank you.**

As long as the earth endures,
Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
Summer and winter, day and night, will never cease.

THE SEED SHOP *by Muriel Stuart*

*Here in a quiet and dusty room they lie,
Faded as crumbled stone or shifting sand,
Forlorn as ashes, shrivelled, scentless, dry.
Meadows and gardens running through my hand.*

*In this brown husk a dale of hawthorn dreams,
A cedar in this narrow cell is thrust;
It will drink deeply of a century's streams,
These lilies shall make a summer on my dust.*

*Here in their safe and simple house of death,
Sealed in their shells, a million roses leap;
Here I can blow a garden with my breath,
And in my hand, a forest lies asleep.*

HYMN

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
Shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.
We sense its passing in rain that dampens, winds that chill,
Harvest's bounty placed on show.

**Creator God, who brings forth
Both green shoot and hoar frost,
Sunrise and sunset,
We bring our thanks for
Seeds that have grown, harvests gathered,
Storehouses filled, mouths fed.**

**And, as your good earth rests
Through winter's cold embrace,
We look forward to its re-awakening
When kissed by spring's first touch. Amen.**

PSALM 67

God be gracious to us and bless us
And make his face to shine upon us.
That your way may be known upon earth,
Your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you O God;
Let all the peoples praise you.
O let the nations rejoice and be glad,
**For you will judge the peoples righteously
And govern the nations upon earth.**
Let the peoples praise you O God;
Let all the peoples praise you.
Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,
And God, our own God, will bless us.
God will bless us,
And all the ends of the world shall fear him.

HYMN

ADDRESS

HYMN

PRAYERS FOR HARVEST

Creator God, for daily bread
and all who work
to bring your harvest home,
we bring our thanks today.

(pause)

Forgive our ingratitude.
We have so much
yet waste what you have given.

(pause)

For those whose harvest is poor,
whose crops have withered,
whose water is tainted, and children starve.
help those who bring relief,
and bestow on us
the spirit of generosity,
that all might share from the bounty of your world
and all might sing your praise.

(pause)

Creator God, provider of all
we bring our thanks today.
And we bless each other,
that the beauty of this world
and the love that created it,
might be expressed through our lives
and be a blessing to others
now and always. **Amen.**

HYMN

GENERAL THANKSGIVING

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble and hearty thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world
by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And give us, we pray, such a sense of your mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

BLESSING

**We bless you, God of seed and harvest.
We bless each other, that the beauty of this world
And the love that created it,
Might be expressed through our lives
And be a blessing to others, now and always. Amen.**

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**Our final Act of Worship in this Celtic style will be on Sunday 5 November at
6.30pm and will be a celebration of ALL SAINTS**