

Harvest

Prayers and worship resources on the theme of 'Harvest' – updated September 2013



Creator God,
We thank you today
for the splendour and beauty of creation;
for the ordered succession of seasons;
for your love which made the world.
We thank you for the good and fertile earth;
for the fruits of the earth in their seasons;
for the life that sustains our life;
for the food that we daily enjoy.
We thank you for those whose labour supplies our physical needs;
for those who harvest our crops, those who transport them,
those who process them, those who sell them.

Loving God,
we thank you for the gift of yourself
in Jesus, our Saviour and Lord;
for his living, dying, and rising again
in your loving redemption of the world.

Life-giving God,
we thank you for your Holy Spirit, the giver of life;
for the Church, a foretaste of your new creation,
and for our privilege in being part of it.

Redeeming God,
we thank you for your mighty acts
in creating and saving your world.
We offer ourselves to you in gratitude,
that we may serve you
and our fellow men and women
joyfully and faithfully throughout our lives;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Loving Lord, we pray for those who have no harvest to celebrate,
no crops to gather, or labour to pursue.
We pray for those who live on land that is hard to farm,
scratching out a living in a hostile soil,
amidst rocky ground and scorching earth.
We pray for those who scratch no living from the earth,
where the whole world seems to squeeze the life from their bodies.
We pray for those who have left their homes,
driven by war or want,
to become refugees, aliens dependent on others.
We pray for those without work:
women and men made redundant by changing needs,
children living off their wits in the streets of sprawling cities.
We pray for those with no energy for praise,
whose bread is bitterness and whose water is tears.

We confess our part in the sin of the world
and pray that you might grant us a vision of justice as well as charity
and strengthen our readiness to change as well as to help;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For all your good gifts - Harvest Blessing

For all your good gifts
safely harvested and gathered in
gluts of fruits and vegetables
abundance overflowing
for giving away and cooking and sharing
May we share your harvest as a blessing to others.

For all your good gifts
stored for the cold, harsh winter months ahead
where the ground lies dormant
and nature takes her rest
for freezing and preserving and jam making
May we share of your abundance as a blessing to others.

For all your good gifts
for planting and nurturing and harvesting
in different habitats and climates around the world
For stories of sowers and swords turned to hoes
For bread broken and wine shared
May we share of your story and our stories as a blessing to others.

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Harvest Blessing

May the blessing of the God who cycles the seasons and swells the grain
Go with us.
May the blessing of the Son who harvests and kneads and breaks the bread
Go with us.
May the blessing of the Spirit who challenges us to a just sharing of earth's harvest
Go with us
Now and into the week ahead.

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Harvest Hymn To the tune of 'Love divine, all loves excelling'.

God of harvest, God of sharing,
God who meets us in our need.
Fill us with a love of caring,
Save us from our hidden greed.
Jesus gave away his glory
Help your people do the same,
Help your people live his story,
Sharing riches in his name.

God of harvest, God of sharing,
Gave a world for all to share.
Yet we burn our planet's riches,
For our comfort, without care.
Living lives that sicken creation,
Farms turned into barren land,
Hungry ones, made voiceless, helpless,
Bread is taken from their hand.

God of harvest, God of sharing,
Gave good news for us to share.
Gives, and helps us give to others,
Love and friendship, time and care.
By your Spirit, by our living,
Help us all your truth proclaim,
In our hearing, in our helping,
Offer love in Jesus' name.

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