

St John the Baptist, Winchester

Sunday, 10 October 2021

Harvest Festival



Photo by Lucy Hutchings, Shegrowsveg

Gathering music

In last Sunday's Gospel Jesus urged us to become more like children, so here we take him at his word and begin with a joyously playful Latin American samba style harvest song. It reminds us too that harvest is a time of celebration, so let the fiesta begin!

Preparation

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, be with us.

The earth has yielded its harvest;

God, our God, has blessed us.

You visit the earth and water it;

you make it very plenteous.

You soften the ground with showers;

and bless the increase of it.

You crown the year with your goodness;

and your paths overflow with plenty.

The earth has yielded its harvest;

God, our God, has blessed us.

Hymn

270 Come ye thankful people

Prayers of Penitence

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor,
and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

We take a time to reflect on the past week, for the times we have separated ourselves from God, neighbour or have done ourselves disservice.

God has blessed us,
but still God's children go hungry.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God has blessed us,
but still the poor cry out for justice.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

God has blessed us,
but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,

have mercy upon us,

pardon and deliver us from all our sins,

confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,

and keep us in life eternal;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen

The Collect

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.

First reading Joel 2.21-27

Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,
for the Lord has done great things!
Do not fear, you animals of the field,

for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
O children of Zion, be glad
and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again
be put to shame.
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

Psalm 126

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, •
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 **Then was our mouth filled with laughter •
and our tongue with songs of joy.**
- 3 Then said they among the nations, •
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4 **The Lord has indeed done great things for us, •
and therefore we rejoiced.**
- 5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, •
as the river beds of the desert.

- 6 **Those who sow in tears •
shall reap with songs of joy.**
- 7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, •
will come back with shouts of joy,
bearing their sheaves with them.

Hymn

498 Let us with a gladsome mind

Gospel Reading Matthew 6.25-33

Alleluia, alleluia.

Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for harvesting

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

‘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.

Reflection by Christine

The Nicene Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers led by John Gawne-Cain

Offertory Hymn

274 To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise

Blessing of the Fruits of the Harvest

We give you thanks, O God, and we offer you the first fruits which you have given us to enjoy, nourishing them through your word, commanding the earth to bring forth fruits for the gladness and the food of humankind and all animals. For all these things we praise you, O God, and for all things with which you have blessed us, you who has adorned all creation for us with various fruits. Through your servant Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom to you be glory, world without end.

The Lord's Prayer

Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray as our Saviour taught us, **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Hymn

250 All creatures of our God and King (omit vv 4, 5 and 6)

The Blessing

May God our creator,
who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air,
bestow on you his care
and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be upon you and remain with you
This day and always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

*Echoing Jesus' words in today's gospel, we end with John Rutter's
beautiful hymn, Look At the World, conducted here by the composer.*

Look at the world, everything all around us,

Look at the world and marvel every day.

Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,

So many miracles along our way.

Praise to thee, O Lord for all creation.

Give us thankful hearts that we may see

All the gifts we share, and every blessing,

All things come of thee.

**Readings for next week, October 17th, 20th Sunday after Trinity and the
baptism of Ned Hodgson: Job 38.1-7, Psalm 104. 1-10, Mark 10.35-45**