

REFLECTION

Harvest time is a great opportunity to give thanks for the faithfulness of God. It is through His grace and great love for us that He provides all that is needed for the harvest. So let us always give thanks with a grateful heart for all that He provides for us.

HYMN

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be
Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love
Great is Thy faithfulness.....

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with 10, 000 beside
Great is Thy faithfulness.....

Songwriters: Adam Anders / Thomas Chisholm / William Runyan

PRAYER

Loving God, at harvest time we pause to remember Your goodness. Thank You for the wonderful things we have: the beauty of Your creation, the kindness of others and the hope You give us in every season of life. Help us to share the harvests of the world more fairly, so everyone can be fed and there will be no more starvation.
In Jesus name. Amen

BLESSING

May the blessing of the God who cycles the seasons and swells the grain go with us...
Now and into the weeks ahead. Amen.



Harvest

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Caraway
Spiritually Resourcing the Older Person

OPENING DECLARATION

'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it'. Psalm 24:1

This Psalm reminds us that God is the creator and owner of the Earth and its inhabitants. So let us give thanks with a grateful heart for all that He has provided.

PRAYER

Lord of the Harvest, thank You for Your generosity to us. For all the good things that You have given to us. From the plants that grow, to the foods we eat, and those who sit alongside us. Help us to share what we have, being generous, as You are generous to us. Thank You for the harvest. Your mercy endures forever. Amen.

HYMN

Let us use this very familiar hymn as a way of thanking God for all his provision.

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 our daily bread.
All good gifts...

We thank You, 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 Your love imparts;
and that which Thou desirest
our humble, thankful hearts.

All good gifts...

Matthias Claudius 1740-1815

BIBLE VERSES

Genesis 8:22

*'While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and
night shall not cease'.*

This verse highlights God's covenant with creation, ensuring the continuation of the natural cycle of harvest.

Psalm 67:6

*'The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.'*

This verse acknowledges that a productive harvest is a gift from God.

Jeremiah 5:24

*'He gives us rain each Spring and Autumn
assuring us of a harvest when the time is right.'*

This emphasizes God's role in providing the conditions for a successful harvest.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, help us to always remember to be thankful for what we have been given, and for those who have worked to bring these foods from the ground to our plates. We pray for those who are hungry, who cannot afford enough food for themselves and their family and we ask that the gifts from Church Harvest Festival Services will bless those in our community who find themselves in that situation. We ask for Your blessing on the various Food Projects who work throughout this city providing food for those in need. In Jesus name. Amen.