

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.

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 you most welcome,
our humble, thankful hearts.
(Words: Matthias Claudius, Jane Campbell)



HARVEST THANKSGIVING

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*All good gifts around us
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then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all His love.*

Harvesttime provides us with a great reminder of the Lord's goodness. Let us pause and thank Him for the things we so often take for granted. What can we thank the Lord for? Our food, home, bed, friends, running water? Pause for a moment and thank the Lord for those things you see around you.

Let's pray: Thank You Father for the comfort of our homes, for fresh running water, a cosy bed, for friends and family. Thank You for the food we eat day by day and that we live in a country of plenty. We pray Your blessing upon farmers throughout the world who grow our food and care for livestock. We ask you to strengthen each one. Please grant to them your wisdom and blessing in their sowing and reaping.
In Jesus Name, Amen.

Thought: Many people rely on food banks – perhaps we could each donate an item to a local food bank in thankfulness of the Lord's goodness and to help those who are struggling to feed their family?

Let's thank the Lord for this season of harvest for God has said in Genesis 8 v 22:

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

Prayer: We thank You Lord for the seasons You give us. Thank You Father through Your Word You uphold our seasons. Thank You for harvest time and the reminder of how much You care for us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Thought: Have you ever sown a seed and watched a tiny seedling push up through the soil? Such a miracle and yet God has ordained that all the while the earth remains, there will be seedtime and harvest. That life will spring forth from a tiny dry, dead looking seed, for it is His order. He has promised that as long as the earth remains there will be seedtime and harvest, there will be cold and heat there will be summer and winter and day and night. It's comforting to know that He does indeed hold the whole world in His hands. Those who study weather patterns may tell us that the earth is heating up; the news reports may inform us of failed harvests and yet God's Word declares that summer and winter, seedtime and harvest shall not cease.

*Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and
righteousness looks down from the sky. Yes, the
Lord will give what is good, and our land will
yield its increase. Righteousness will go before
him and make His footsteps a way.*

Psalms 85:11-13

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 tells us that
For everything there is a season,
...A time to plant and a time to harvest...*

Thought: Just as seeds are destined to produce a harvest, so our words are like seeds which too produce a harvest. Some of our words sadly have the capacity to yield a harvest of bitterness, whilst other words we speak have the capacity to yield peace, love and wholeness. Pause for a moment and consider the words you have spoken today. What harvest will they produce? Maybe we need to repent and determine to speak only words that build up and heal.

***"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for
whatsoever a man soweth, that shall
he also reap". Galatians 6:7***

Let's pray: Heavenly Father please forgive us for the foolish things we have spoken today. Please help us instead to speak words that bring life, hope, peace and love. Thank You for sending Jesus to show us the right way to live and to speak. We pray that You will give us listening ears and receptive hearts to give to others without counting the cost. Thank You for all who give their time working in the food banks across our country. We pray Your blessing upon them and all who will receive hope and help from their hands. Please keep us faithful in sowing seeds of kindness and patience so that others may eat its fruit. In Jesus Name, Amen.