

**THE PARISH OF HOLY SAVIOUR
HITCHIN**



SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER 2026

at 10.30am

LET'S CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Harvest is a time for everyone young and old to celebrate, reflect, and give thanks to God for his providence.

Each of us has a role to play in this vibrant service. Let us cherish the bonds we share and come together.

Today, the Children's Praise band joins us to add our celebratory all-age worship.

(Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishop's Council 2000)

OPENING HYMN *(please stand if you are able)*

CELEBRATE *(© Songs for Schools, Out of the Ark)*

Verse 1

Sing a song sing a joyful song
Sing a joyful song to celebrate;
Sing a song sing a joyful song
Sing a joyful song to celebrate;

Chorus

*Jesus is alive you know
He's risen from the dead;
He was crucified but now
He's risen like He said.*

Verse 2

Clap your hands clap your hands like this
Clap your hands like this to celebrate;
Clap your hands clap your hands like this
Clap your hands like this to celebrate;

Verse 3

Jump up and down up and down and around
Up and down and around to celebrate;
Jump up and down up and down and around
Up and down and around to celebrate;

Verse 4

Dance to the beat to the beat of the drum
To the beat of the drum to celebrate;
Dance to the beat to the beat of the drum
To the beat of the drum to celebrate;

Verse 5

Wave your hands wave your hands in the air
Wave your hands in the air to celebrate;
Wave your hands wave your hands in the air
Wave your hands in the air to celebrate;

Verse 6

Sing a song sing a joyful song
Sing a joyful song to celebrate;
Sing a song sing a joyful song
Sing a joyful song to celebrate.

WELCOME AND OUR GREETING TO EACH OTHER

(remain standing)

The Lord be with you

All: and also with you

WE SAY SORRY TO GOD *(please sit or kneel)*

We confess our sins, and the sins of the wider world, in our misuse of God's creation.

God our Father, we are sorry for the times we have used your gifts carelessly and acted ungratefully.

Father in your mercy

All: forgive us and help us

We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.

Father in your mercy

All: forgive us and help us

We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father in your mercy

All: forgive us and help us

We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father in your mercy

All: forgive us and help us.

We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there was no God and no heaven

Father in your mercy

All: forgive us and help us

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to see God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

WE SING THE GLORIA *(Please stand if you are able)*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

***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.***

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest.

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of
God, you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the
Father; receive our prayer.***

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God In the highest.

***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.***

***Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest,
Amen.***

(Mass of St. Thomas, Thorne)

COLLECT

THE PRAYER FOR THIS HARVEST THANKSGIVING

(Please remain standing)

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 our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

(please be seated)

THE HARVEST READINGS

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land. The land has rivers and pools of water. Springs flow in the valleys and hills. The land has wheat and barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil, and honey. It is a land where you will have plenty of food. You will have everything you need there. The rocks are iron. You can dig copper out of the hills.

You will have all you want to eat. Then praise the Lord your God. He has given you a good land. Be careful not to forget the Lord your God. Do not fail to obey his commands, laws, and rules. I am giving them to you today. You will eat all you want. You will build nice houses and live in them. Your herds of cattle and flocks of sheep will grow large. Your silver and gold will grow. You will have more of everything. Then your heart will become proud. You will forget the Lord your God. He brought you out of the land of Egypt, where you were slaves. He led you through the large and terrible desert. It was dry and had no water. It had poisonous snakes and stinging insects. He gave you water from a solid rock. He gave you manna to eat in the desert. Manna was

something your ancestors had never seen. He did this to take away your pride and to test you. He did it so things would go well for you in the end. You might say to yourself, “I am rich because of my own strength and power.” But remember the Lord your God! It is he who gives you the power to become rich. He keeps the agreement he promised to your ancestors. So it is today.

(International Children’s Bible)©

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

(Please stand as the Gospel is processed to the centre of the church)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All sing: Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus used this story: “There was a rich man who had some land, which grew a good crop of food. ¹⁷The rich man thought to himself, ‘What will I do? I have no place to keep all my crops.’

Then he said, ‘I know what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones! I will put all my grain and other goods together in my new barns. Then I can say to myself, I have enough good things stored to last for many years. Rest, eat, drink, and enjoy life!’

“But God said to that man, ‘Foolish man! Tonight you will die. So who will get those things you have prepared for yourself?’

“This is how it will be for anyone who stores things up only for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Jesus said to his followers, “So I tell you, don’t worry about the food you need to live. Don’t worry about the clothes you need for your body. Life is more important than food. And the body is more important than clothes. Look at the birds. They don’t plant

or harvest. They don't save food in houses or barns. But God takes care of them. And you are worth much more than birds. None of you can add any time to your life by worrying about it. If you cannot do even the little things, then why worry about the big things? Look at the wild flowers. See how they grow. They don't work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that even Solomon, the great and rich king, was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. God clothes the grass in the field like that. That grass is living today, but tomorrow it will be thrown into the fire. So you know how much more God will clothe you. Don't have so little faith! Don't always think about what you will eat or what you will drink. Don't worry about it. All the people in the world are trying to get those things. Your Father knows that you need them. *(International Children's Bible) ©*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All sing: Praise to you, O Christ.

HARVEST TALK

WE DECLARE OUR FAITH *(please stand)*

Let us declare our faith in God.

All: We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with the power from on high. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

OUR PRAYERS TO GOD *(Please sit or kneel, all sing at the beginning and end of the prayers)*

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer when I call answer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE *(Please stand if you are able)*

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy and peace. If the Spirit is the source of life, let the Spirit also direct us it's course. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: and also with you

THE OFFERTORY HYMN & PROCESSION

(Gifts of Harvest are brought to the altar. Lights of hope and plenty are placed. Thanks are given. Please stand throughout)

COME YE THANKFUL PEOPLE COME

Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

We ourselves are God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown
are to joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear;
grant, O Harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall purge away
all that doth offend, that day,
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast;
but the fruitful ears store
in his garner evermore.

Then, thou Church triumphant, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, for ever purified,
in God's garner to abide;
come, ten thousand angels come,
raise the glorious harvest home!

(Text: H. Alford, Music: G.J. Alvey)

THE TAKING OF BREAD AND WINE AND OUR THANKFUL COMMITMENT TO USE AND SHARE GOD'S HARVEST WISELY (*Remain Standing*)

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
through your goodness we have this bread set before you, which
earth has given and human hands have made, it will be come for
us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit
of the vine and work of human hands, it will be for us the cup of
salvation.

All: Blessed be God for ever

***All: At this harvest time, Lord God, we thank you for the gifts
around us, for creation and all the world's resources. Help us
use all your gifts wisely and share them unselfishly, so that all
people may rejoice in all your goodness, Amen***

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give thanks and praise

(You may sit if you wish)

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And now we give you thanks because all things are of your making. All times and seasons obey your laws, but you have chosen to create us in your image, setting us over the whole world in all its wonder, you have made us stewards of your creation, to praise you day by day for the marvels of your Wisdom and Power: So earth unites with heaven to sing the new song of creation

***All sing: Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest***

We praise and bless you loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command send your Holy Spirit that broken bread outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you, he broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat ; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: drink this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many, for forgiveness of sins.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in Him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All sing: Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father for ever and ever.

All: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Please sit or kneel)*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray;

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, you 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 forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

THE LAMB OF GOD WHO DIED FOR US

All sing: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

COMMUNION IS GIVEN

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and thanksgiving.

A Communion Anthem is sung by the choir

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in Creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the Kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***All: Amen.***

All: Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Holy Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

OUR SENDING OUT

FINAL HYMN: THE HARVEST SAMBA

(Please turn to face the font as the recession party pass)

Cabbages and greens,
Broccoli and beans,
Cauliflower and roasted potatoes
Taste so good to me.
Apricots and plums
Ripened in the sun;
Oranges and yellow bananas
Good for everyone.

Chorus

*It's another Harvest Festival
When we bring our fruit and vegetables;
'Cause we want to share the best of all
The good things that we've been given.
It's another opportunity
To be grateful for the food we eat
With a samba celebration to
Say "Thank You" to God the Father.*

Golden corn and wheat,
Oats and sugar beet,
Fluffy rice and tasty spaghetti
Wonderful to eat.
Coffee cocoa tea
Growing nat'rally;
Herbal plants and all kinds of spices
Very nice indeed.

Chorus (twice)

BLESSING

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the source of all goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon you his children that you may use them to his glory and the welfare of all peoples; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.