



# Church Alive Worship

for Harvest Festival Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October



Welcome to our Church Alive service. Whilst we are not all together in church, we are together in spirit. We have tried to adapt our normal service from screen to paper and have provided links to music where possible if you would like to sing. *A big thank you to Debbie Thomson for recording some of the songs for us. These can be found on our YouTube channel with the links under the title – just hover and click on it*

Today we give thanks for all the many blessing bestowed on us, for the generosity of God providing what we need and gratitude for all those around us who work to produce the food we eat and share

**Opening Song:** For the Beauty Of The Earth  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHifRLNYUGw>

1. For the beauty of the earth  
For the beauty of the skies  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies  
Over and around us lies  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise

2. For the beauty of the hour  
Of the day and of the night  
Hill and vale and tree and flower  
Sun and moon and stars of light  
Sun and moon and stars of light  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise

3. For the joy of human love  
Brother, sister, parent, child  
Friends on earth and friends above  
For all gentle thoughts and mild  
For all gentle thoughts and mild  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise

4. For each perfect gift of thine,  
To our race so freely given,  
Graces human and divine,  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise.  
This our joyful hymn of praise

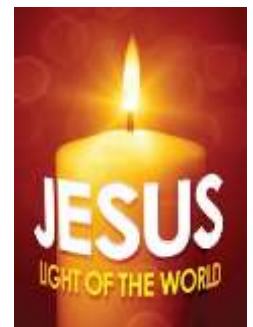
**Thanksgiving**



What would you like to say thank you to God for today and this week?  
Take a moment to say thank you now.

**Opening Prayer:** *If you are able, and it is safe to do so, light a candle at this point*

Lord, we light this candle, to remind us that you are the light of the world. As we gather together in spirit, make our voices ready to sing your praise; our hearts open to receive your love and our minds alive to your Spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## **We seek God's healing and forgiveness**

Almighty God, as we stand before you we give thanks for the fruit of our lives, but we also remember where we have fallen short of the ideals of your kingdom; so we come to you to ask for your forgiveness and peace.

Where we have spoken without thinking, causing hurt to others:

**Father, forgive us.**

Where things have been more important to us than people:

**Father, forgive us.**

Where we have neglected you for the sake of the busyness of our lives:

**Father, forgive us.**

## **We hear words assuring us of God's forgiveness**

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Bible Reading – 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15, *The Cheerful Giver*, Good News Translation (GNT).**

<sup>6</sup> Remember that the person who plants few seeds will have a small crop; the one who plants many seeds will have a large crop. <sup>7</sup> You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. <sup>9</sup> As the scripture says,

“He gives generously to the needy;  
his kindness lasts forever.”

<sup>10</sup> And God, who supplies seed for the sower and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and will make it grow and produce a rich harvest from your generosity. <sup>11</sup> He will always make you rich enough to be generous at all times, so that many will thank God for your gifts which they receive from us. <sup>12</sup> For this service you perform not only meets the needs of God's people, but also produces an outpouring of gratitude to God. <sup>13</sup> And because of the proof which this service of yours brings, many will give glory to God for your loyalty to the gospel of Christ, which you profess, and for your generosity in sharing with them and everyone else. <sup>14</sup> And so with deep affection they will pray for you because of the extraordinary grace God has shown you. <sup>15</sup> Let us thank God for his priceless gift!

**Introducing the Theme & Learning Spaces** *Not being able to break out into our learning spaces, here are a few thoughts about the theme for today prepared by Linda. For young people you can use the Children's and Youth sheets that are being sent out separately.*

Paul is reminding the Corinthians about the principles of Christian giving. Giving is like sowing seed: what you get is linked to what you give. In Christian giving both the thought and the attitude count. God himself is a great giver. He provides in all kinds of ways – in crops and food and spiritual gifts. His greatest gift being was to send his only Son, Jesus, to be the Saviour of the world. The Corinthians, like us, will discover in their giving that they themselves receive. They will be enabled and encouraged to be generous, both now and in the future. This will be a harvest of praise to God when people see his grace in their lives.

So, more than ever we need to give generously, willingly and cheerfully, of our time, of our talents, of our resources; because what we will receive back will be so much more.



### **All Age Creative – Discovering God’s Generosity**

Scour the churchyard for evidence of God’s generosity. Perhaps one thing that might be sown to multiply to produce more than just one thing?

When you find something stand and look around you. Can you see evidence that this might not just be the only one?

**Picture Reflection** – prepared by Brenda



### **Harvest 2020 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15**

- Spend a few minutes with this image....
- Reflect on God’s many blessings in our lives: the warmth and light of the sun; the moist soil; the many different seeds that will grow into plants to feed us....
- Notice how God has given us a role in his creation....the hand which sows the seeds in drilled rows at the correct distance apart for the best growth....
- Think back to spring 2020 when this year’s seeds were sown by farmers and growers... the time before the upheaval of Covid 19 in our lives...
- Reflect on the effects of the pandemic that are still impacting on lives throughout the world many months later...reflect on God’s faithful love and support...the plants grew and we are celebrating Harvest Festival...
- Spend a few minutes thanking God for the Harvest goods we enjoy, while also offering prayers for those places in the world where climate change has seriously affected food production this year...
- In this country, we remember particularly those who will be visiting local Food Banks to gratefully receive the contributions we are donating...

*May God continue to provide food for our bodies, minds and spirits.... Amen*

**Song:** Sing of the Lord's Goodness

<https://youtu.be/ezf5vJOiDp8>

1. Sing of the Lord's goodness,  
Father of all wisdom,  
come to him and bless his name.  
Mercy he has shown us,  
his love is for ever,  
faithful to the end of days.

*Come, then, all you nations,  
sing of your Lord's goodness,  
melodies of praise and thanks to God.  
Ring out the Lord's glory,  
praise him with your music,  
worship him and bless his name.*

2. Power he has wielded,  
honour is his garment,  
risen from the snares of death.  
His word he has spoken,  
one bread he has broken,  
new life he now gives to all.

3. Courage in our darkness,  
comfort in our sorrow,  
Spirit of our God most high;  
solace for the weary,  
pardon for the sinner,  
splendour of the living God.

4. Praise him with your singing,  
praise him with the trumpet,  
praise God with the lute and harp;  
praise him with the cymbals,  
praise him with your dancing,  
praise God till the end of days.

**O Lord, Hear Our Prayers** *Here are a few suggested pics for you to pray about. If you have specific prayers you would like included in future weeks then do send them to Linda and she will add them in*

We pray for...

**God's world:** We pray for all those who provide us with our 'daily bread' and remember all those who will go to sleep hungry today. We pray for places where uprising and violence have arisen from a lack of love for each other's needs, leading to increased incidences of injustice and inequality.

**Our communities:** We pray for this parish of West End, Townhill and Harefield. For all activities that promote care for neighbour and stranger and for the schools and their staff as they prepare to safely welcome their pupils for the new school year.

**God's church:** We pray for the global Church, for all who witness and worship in Jesus' name: Bless us and prepare us to be ready to take up our crosses and step out in service and mission in the places where we live, work and find recreation.

**All who are sick:** We offer prayers for all who are struggling with frailty and illness. Lord of life, bless with peace of body and mind everyone who calls on Your name, and send Your mercy on all whose earthly life is drawing to a close.

**For those who have died:** Comfort those who mourn and all unable to attend funerals to say their farewells because of the restrictions in place, not forgetting all whose world has changed immeasurably following the death of a loved one. Gather all who have died into Your eternal kingdom.

*Thanksgiving:* Lord, we give thanks that You are always there for us and help us to carry the crosses we have to bear. Strengthen our faith, teach us to love rather than hate, to strive to live in harmony with one another.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

**We say the Lord's Prayer:**

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.

**To end on a bit of fun and joy you can watch and join in the Harvest Samba**

**Song:** Harvest Samba

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTdIrTlXks>

1. 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!

*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.*

**Sending Out Prayer**

God of the harvest,  
send us out to sow,  
support us as we tend,  
and bless us as we reap –  
all in your holy name.  
**Amen.**

**The Peace**

Go in the light and peace of Christ  
**Thanks be to God**

2. Golden corn and wheat, oats and sugar beet,  
Fluffy rice and tasty spaghetti,  
Wonderful to eat!  
Coffee, cocoa, tea, growing naturally,  
Herbal plants and all kinds of spices  
Very nice indeed!

*Chorus*

*Bridge*

*Thank you for the harvest,  
Thank you for your goodness,  
For all of the fruit and vegetables  
and the wonderful things that grow!*

*Repeat or sing chorus*

*Chorus*

