

# Prayers for Harvest Thanksgiving

As used by the Rev Eddie Sykes  
at our Joint Communion Service on 26 September 2021  
The readings were Joel 2:21–27 and Matthew 6:25–33

## Opening prayer

Maker of heaven and earth,  
you enliven your creation:  
causing the skies to rain,  
the soil to be rich and fertile,  
the fields to yield abundant crops,  
and the trees to bear fruit.

Enliven us once more, Holy One.  
Call us forth into the joy of your harvest:  
from tears to shouts of joy,  
from calamity to plenty,  
from worry to faith,  
and from what is false to what is true.

You are our God,  
there is no other.  
We praise your name,  
for you have dealt wondrously with us  
and will do so again. **Amen.**

## Prayer of yearning

We gather before you today, O God,  
intent on giving you thanks.

We remember the wonders of your past,  
even as we yearn for the wonders  
you have in store for us.

We long to touch your mercy and your  
care, for our lives are often sown with  
tears.

Help our rulers and authorities  
seek out the building of your kingdom  
and the triumph of your righteousness.

Restore our fortunes, O God,  
like streams watering the wilderness,  
that we may reap with shouts of joy  
what was planted in sorrow. **Amen.**

## Prayer following the sermon

Look at the birds of the air.  
They fly free of our worries:  
no fields to weed and harvest,  
no barns to fill.  
And yet God feeds them.  
Consider the lilies of the field.  
They grow free of our worries:  
no clothing to buy, no shoes to match.  
And yet God clothes them in splendour.  
So do not worry. Do not fear.  
God knows our needs.  
We will eat in plenty!  
We will be satisfied!  
Rejoice! God looks after our needs.

## Offering prayer

Gracious God, source of every blessing,  
we look forward to your harvest each  
year.

Our tables overflow with  
the bounty of this good earth,  
but our tables pale in comparison  
to the splendour that awaits us,  
and all of your children,  
at your heavenly banquet.

Receive these offerings,  
as we thank you for your many blessings,  
and help us be mindful of those who go  
without, as we feast and make merry  
during this festive season. **Amen.**





## **A prayer of intercession**

Lord of the harvest,  
the time of sowing and the time of  
reaping are yours.  
The time of weeping and the time of  
singing are yours, too.  
Thank you for the time of sowing and the  
time of reaping.

Let there be harvest in your world.  
We pray for those places in the world  
where the crops have failed  
and for those where poverty is the result  
of human aggression and human greed ...  
We pray for a harvest of peace and plenty  
and we promise to work with you for it,  
both reaping and sowing.

Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer.**

Let there be harvest in the hearts of  
children, women and men.  
We pray for those who are spiritually  
starved, who long for meaning in their  
lives and who need to belong.  
Give to your church patience and energy,  
boldness to speak out and the ability to  
listen ...

We pray for a harvest of faith and of lives  
transformed by the Gospel  
and we promise to work with you for it,  
both reaping and sowing.

Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer.**

Let there be harvest in our own lives,  
and in the lives of those we know and  
love.

We pray for those who are sick or  
troubled,  
for those who are lonely or who have  
suffered loss ...

We pray for ourselves, that, whatever  
difficulties we face, our lives may be  
grateful and joyful.

We pray for a harvest of deepened love,  
more faithful discipleship,  
and we promise to work with you for it,  
both reaping and sowing.

Lord of the harvest,  
the time of sowing and the time of  
reaping are yours.  
The time of weeping and the time of  
singing are yours, too,  
and we promise to work with you for it,  
both reaping and sowing.

Lord in your mercy – **hear our prayer.**