

Wallington and St Andrew's URCs
Sunday 18 October 2020: Harvest

Revd Craig Bowman

Call to worship

♪ 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!

All the world is God's own field,
Fruit unto his praise to yield,
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto 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 bring 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 to store
In his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come
Bring thy final harvest home;
Gather thou thy people in
Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There for ever purified,
In thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thy angels come,
Raise the glorious harvest-home.

Words: Henry Alford; music: George Elvey.
Performance: BBC Songs of Praise.

Prayer and Lord's prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

For all the family –
Why celebrate Harvest?

♪ God, whose farm is all creation,
Take the gratitude we give;
Take the finest of our harvest,
Crops we grow that we may live.

Take our ploughing, seeding, reaping,
Hopes and fears of sun and rain,
All our thinking, planning, waiting,
Ripened in this fruit and grain.

All our labour, all our watching,
All our calendar of care,
In these crops of your creation,
Take, O God: they are our prayer.

Words: John Arlott © Trustees of the late John Arlott, music: Johann Steiner. Performance: singers and instrumentalists from the Winterborne Valley and Milton Abbey Benefice.

Psalm 104:1-5 – Praise the Lord, my soul!
Deuteronomy 8:7-18 – The promised land

Sermon

♪ For the fruits of all creation,
Thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation,
Thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
Silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping,
Thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,
God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbour,
God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring
For the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
Thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
Thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us,
Thanks be to God.

*Words: Fred Pratt Green © 1970 Stainer & Bell
Ltd, music: Welsh trad. Performance:
Congregation and choir of First Plymouth Church,
Lincoln, Nebraska.*

Prayers of intercession

♪ 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 winds and waves obey Him,
By Him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, His children,
He gives our daily bread:
All good gifts around us ...

We thank thee then, O Father,
For all things bright and good:
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
For all thy love imparts,
But that which thou desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts!
All good gifts around us ...

*Words: Matthias Claudius tr Jane Campbell,
music: Jonathan Shulz. Performance: Chet Valley
churches, Norfolk.*

Blessing

*Closing music: Your hay it is mow'd and your corn
is reap'd from King Arthur by Henry Purcell,
perform'd by the English Baroque Soloists
© Warner Music on behalf of Erato.*

*The Bible passages are read by Chris Jackson and
Nigel Macdonald, the family talk is by Sophie
Easton and the prayers of intercession are led by
Laura Barker.*