

Blessing

Closing Music

Lord of the Harvest

by Lindy Cofer (New Song Café)

Lord, I feel the movement of your spirit
in my life, to go
And Lord, I hear the thunder of your
voice call out, arise and go
No matter what the cost to me
The author of all history
Deserves the love from every tribe and
tongue;
And I hear the spirit beckoning
I can't escape this mystery
That I could help bring you what you
have won.

*To the lord of the harvest, you deserve it
all, here I am, I say yes (repeat)*

And now, now is the time you chose in
history for me to be alive
So here, I will respond right where I
am and I will give my life
And I lay my crowns down at your feet
The one who gave it all for me
My life is yours and everything I am;
And from now into eternity
You're worth the nations worshipping
An endless hallelujah to the lamb.

*To the lord of the harvest, you deserve it
all, here I am, I say yes (repeat)*

Hallelujah, salvation belongs,
To the lamb of God who sits on the
throne.

*To the lord of the harvest, you deserve it
all, here I am, I say yes (repeat)*

*If you would like to be part of our
Reflections team, helping us to put
together the service and/or deliver it,
please speak to any one of the team.*

The Parish Church of St Andrew
and St Cuthman, Steyning

REFLECTIONS

*A quiet contemplative service
lasting about 40 minutes*

A Harvest of Souls

6pm

1 October 2023



Music on entrance

Come ye thankful people come

Sung and arranged by Cantus, based on a text by Henry Alford (1810-1871)-

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 blessings of the field,
All the stores the gardens yield;
All the fruits in full supply,
Ripened 'neath the summer sky;
All that spring with bounteous hand
Scatters o'er the smiling land;
All that liberal autumn pours
From her rich o'erflowing stores;

These to thee, our God, we owe,
Source whence all our blessings flow;
And for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

Amen.

Welcome and introduction

Reading: Poem

Harvest Moon

It is the harvest moon! On gilded vanes
And roofs of villages, on woodland
crests
And their aerial neighbourhoods of
nests
Deserted, on the curtained window-
panes

Prayer

Harvest Prayer (*The Trussell Trust*)

Loving God, thank you for the many
ways in which you provide for us:
Food, family, friendship, housing,
health, happiness, and ways to use
our time and talents. We lift to you
too, the ways in which we remain in
need of these things.

God of generosity,

All: **May your kingdom come.**

We pray for people in our
community and beyond who are
facing unemployment, ill-health,
isolation or money worries at this
time, and especially for those who
are unable to afford enough to eat.
We pray for supportive
relationships, practical provision and
real hope.

God of compassion,

All: **May your kingdom come.**

Thank you that you call us to play
our part, working with you and with
others to bring about change.
We pray for political decision-
makers and leaders: give them
courage and insight to develop
policies and systems that support
the flourishing of all, so that even in
challenging times, no-one goes
hungry and everyone has dignity.
God of justice,

All: **May your kingdom come.**

Thank you for those who are
serving and caring for others, in
churches, in charities, and public
services, in our neighbourhoods, in
our homes, and in many other
contexts. Would you give them
strength, rest and perseverance. as
they work to support others, we
ask that they too would receive all
they need to thrive.

God of love,

All: **May your kingdom come.**
Amen

Meditation on Bible verses

Matthew 6:26: Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

Malachi 3:10: Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

Leviticus 26:3-4: If you follow my statutes and keep my commandments and observe them faithfully, I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.

James 3:18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Reading: Poem

It's Always Harvest Time

Not just at harvest time,
do we need to have a reason
we can plant seeds of hope
in and out of every season.

We can reap souls to Jesus,
no matter the time of year
it doesn't have to be Autumn
harvest time is always here.

Seeds of faith can be planted,
into the hearts of everyone
whether under snowy covers
or the warm blanket of the sun.

We can gather in the lost,
bring back a wandering soul
it needn't be just in the Autumn
for the harvest God controls.

Deborah Ann Belka

Of rooms where children sleep, on
country lanes
And harvest-fields, its mystic splendour
rests
Gone are the birds that were our
summer guests,
With the last sheaves return the
labouring wains!

All things are symbols: the external
shows
Of nature have their image in the mind,
As flowers and fruits and falling of the
leaves

The song-birds leave us at the
summer's close,
Only the empty nests are left behind,
And pipings of the quail among the
sheaves.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
(1807-1882)*

Bible reading

The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Music into silence

Harvest Song (Beltane)

Seek ye seek the grain
Seek ye fields of grain
Golden oceans wave born of sacrifice
Our calloused hand on the scythe

Praise be to the sun
Praise be to the shining one
See his blazing hand raise the golden
sheaves
All the length of the land, the land, the
land
With his blazing hand
The land, the land, the land
With his blazing hand

Chorus:

*Corn grain rising up to the sun
A turn of the wheel another harvest is
done
Corn fields move with the wind hear
them sing
The moon on the rise and the crow on
the wing
Now my friends our harvest is home*

Children we reap what we've sown
In her fertile fields in our hearts and
minds
We gather warmth and love for these
times

Soon autumn's chill shall cover the
earth
Spring flowers await their rebirth
And the wintery queen in her
glistening gown
Will leave us a blanket of snow on the
ground

[Chorus]

Reflective Silence

*(We will keep a period of silence for 12-15
minutes, please feel free to find your own
quiet place within the church)*

Music out of Silence

Great is thy Faithfulness

Thomas O Chisholm (1886-1960)

sung by Chris Rice

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my
father;
There is no shadow of turning with
thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions,
they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt
be.

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness
Great is thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath
provided:
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and
harvest;
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses
above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and
love.

[Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that
endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and
to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for
tomorrow:
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand
beside.

[Refrain]