



**St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC
Order for Worship for Sunday 16th October 2022 at 11.00am
Harvest Celebration**

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship:

The love of our God is with us always. God's abundant goodness never comes to an end. Great is God's faithfulness, so we come to worship and to give our thanks and praise.

Hymn – R&S 48. Praise and thanksgiving, Father we offer
(please bring your gifts for 'The Friary' and your expressions of gratitude [milagro] to the front during the sing of this hymn)

Opening Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Lord of all life, we gather today to praise you, to acknowledge you as Creator of earth and heaven, to thank you for your faithful

provision, and to celebrate the constant cycle of the seasons, of day and night, of seed-time and harvest.

Richly you have blessed us; gladly we praise you!

We praise you for this vast and amazing universe in which you have placed us, this world in which we live and the country in which we have been born – so many reasons to count our blessings and so much to thank you for.

Richly you have blessed us; gladly we praise you!

We thank you for the harvest which surrounds us today, for the many places from which it has come, for the hard work which has made it possible, and for your hand which ultimately lies behind it.

Richly you have blessed us; gladly we praise you!

Lord of all life, we praise you for your goodness and we remember how fortunate we are. We celebrate the bountiful provision of your creation. Gladly we come, with thankful hearts and joyful worship.

Richly you have blessed us; gladly we praise you!

Lord of all life, we ask for your blessing on our harvest gifts, that they may bring much needed nourishment and comfort to those in great need in our society. We ask your blessing too on our expressions of thanks for the miracles of joy that you have given us over the past year.

Richly you have blessed us; gladly we praise you!

Lord of all life, we confess that sometimes we take your blessings for granted, complaining about what we do not have instead of rejoicing in what we do have. For the poverty of our response to your great goodness,

Lord, please forgive us.

We confess that we are not only ungrateful, but sometimes also irresponsible. We squander what you have given, frittering away the earth's treasures with little thought of tomorrow. We are part of a society that wantonly pollutes and knowingly wastes, and we have done little if anything about it. We are part of a world in which the few have plenty and the rest make do with crumbs from the table. For the poverty of our response to your great goodness,

Lord, please forgive us.

Lord of all life, we are reminded today that thanksgiving must be more than simply words. Help us, as we celebrate another harvest, to recognise that challenge and to act upon it. For the poverty of our response to your great goodness,

Lord, please forgive us.

We sum up all our prayers as we say together the prayer that Jesus himself has taught us ... The Lord's Prayer.

Reading – Amos 9:11-15

Family Talk

Anthem – “Look at the World” by John Rutter

Hymn – CH4 143. Who put the colours in the rainbow?

1. Who put the colours in the rainbow?
Who put the salt in the sea?
Who put the cold in the snowflake?
Who made you and me?
Who put the hump upon the camel?
Who put the neck on the giraffe?
Who put the tail upon the monkey?
Who made the hyena laugh?
Who made whales and snails and quails?
Who made hogs and dogs and frogs?
Who made bats and rats and cats?
Who made everything?
2. Who put the gold in the sunshine?
Who put the sparkle in the stars?
Who put the silver in the moonlight?
Who made Earth and Mars?
Who put the scent into the roses?
Who taught the honey-bee to dance?
Who put the tree inside the acorn?
It surely can't be chance!
Who made seas and leaves and trees?
Who made snow and winds that blow?
Who made streams and rivers flow?
God made all of these!

Joseph Arthur Paul Booth (1931 – 1995)

Blessing for the Offertory

Reading – Mark 4:26-32

Family Talk

Hymn – CH4 232. Pears and apples, wheat and grapes

1. Pears and apples, wheat and grapes,
many textures, many shapes;
falling leaves in golden drifts,
thank you, God, for all your gifts.
2. Flashing shoals of glistening fish,
every colour you could wish;
fishing boats, for you and me
reap the harvest of the sea.
3. Deep beneath the ocean floor
fuel and power have lain in store,
brought to us through dangerous toil.
Thank you, God, for gas and oil.
4. Coal and diamonds in the earth,
minerals of priceless worth;
skill and labour now combine,
reaping harvest of the mine.
5. Earth and ocean, plant and beast,
all together make the feast;
all who long to share your grace
at your table have their place.

6. Loving God, we know you care;
let the world your goodness share;
save us from our selfish greed,
finding you in those in need.

Joseph Arthur Paul Booth (1931 – 1995)

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of all grace, for the wonderful world you have created in all its beauty and magnificent splendour,
we give you our thanks.

For the life you have given us, for families to hold us and keep us in love, for friendships and laughter, for help given when we needed it most,
we give you our thanks.

For our church and our life together, for faith nourished by worship and by friends, for your Holy Spirit who encourages us on our spiritual journey,
we give you our thanks.

For the joy of planning, designing, choosing materials and creating, for renewal through play and relaxation through hobbies,
we give you our thanks.

Please fill our hearts with such love for you that no task may seem too hard for us to do, no load too difficult to bear, no

cost too great to carry, all in obedience to your will and in grateful response to your love for us.

Almighty God, we pray for all those who work to bring us our harvest, all whose labour and dedication enable us to share in the richness of your world's resources. We pray for farmers at this time of such great difficulty, a time of so much change and so many complex issues. Please grant them your help in overcoming adversity.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for farmers in poorer lands, denied the resources they need to cultivate their land successfully, overwhelmed by drought, flood or other natural catastrophe, oppressed by exploitative regimes or economic systems that are loaded against them. Please grant them your hope, your help and your justice.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who bring in the harvest of earth and sea, minerals, oil, gas, fish, harvests often involving danger to life and limb. Please grant them skill, courage and protection.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who make possible the harvest of technology, scientists, technicians, programmers and engineers, whose skills open up new worlds and unimagined horizons. Please grant them wisdom, ingenuity and a due sense of responsibility.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who work hard to reap the harvest of minds, teachers, students, researchers and scholars, all striving to expand our knowledge and enlarge our understanding. Please grant them patience, dedication and integrity.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we offer our prayers for all who make available to us the diverse riches of your creation. Please equip, inspire and guide them in their work, so that they and we may steward all your gifts wisely for the good of all.

We offer all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn – R&S 124. We plough the fields and scatter

Benediction: We share the words of 'The Grace' with each other.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.

Opening Prayers and Prayers of Intercession adapted for use from "Prayers for All Seasons, Book 2" by Nick Fawcett.

Cover Image: "Harvest Festival", Pixabay.