



St Andrew's with Castle Gate URC
Order for Worship for Sunday 13th October 2024 at 11.00am
Harvest Celebration

Welcome and Notices

Call to Worship – Genesis 8:22

Hymn – R&S 113. Let all God's people join in one

(please bring your harvest gifts for 'the 'Friary' to the front during the singing of this hymn)

Opening Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Abundant and Eternal God, we come together at this familiar and much-loved time of celebration to praise you for your goodness and for your provision of all our needs. We come to praise you for the bounty of the earth, for the beauty of creation and for all the blessings of good work. We come to find ourselves renewed in wonder, love and praise. Please open our lives to your presence

in this time of worship, so that we may experience that new life that only you can bring to us.

Creating God, you give light and life, and express delight in your creation. You gave the command to till and care for your garden, but we have abused the beauty of creation and the keeping of your word.

We confess the plundering of finite resources.

We confess the flagrant pollution of land, sea and air.

We confess the Churches' frequent lack of concern for the well-being of creation.

We confess the excesses within our own lifestyle.

Creating God, we have desecrated your creation and darkened your light. God of life and God of light, as we seek a new relationship with your created order, may we sense the grace and peace of a new relationship with you.

The Lord's Prayer – A Harvest Responsive Version

Our Father, who art in heaven ... **You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans,**

Hallowed be your name ... **by the care we take of your creation,**

Your kingdom come ... **All that you see is good,**

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven ... **Your will to till and care.**

Give us this day our daily bread ... **that all may have sufficient to live life in fullness.**

Forgive us our trespasses ... **our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations,**
As we forgive those who trespass against us ... **by reconciliation with justice and peace.**

Lead us not into temptation ... **the temptation to equate dominion with exploitation,**

And deliver us from evil ... **the evil of destroying your gift of creation.**

For yours is the Kingdom ... **Yours, Lord, not ours,**

The Power and the Glory ... **in the cross and the resurrection,**

For ever and ever ... **You were in the beginning and you are the end.**

Amen. **And so be it.**

Reading – Mark 4:26-32

Family Talk

Anthem – “All things bright and beautiful” by John Rutter

Hymn – R&S 48. Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer

Blessing for the Offertory and for the Junior Church
(Junior Church leave – younger departments only)

Reading – “The Terrapin” by Wendell Berry, from ‘The Gift of Gravity: Selected Poems 1968 - 2000’

Hymn – R&S 42. For the fruits of all creation T. Stf 124 (ii)

Talk 1 – Always Home

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

Talk 2

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 620. For the healing of the nations

Benediction - we say together (Amen spoken):

The seeds are sown, God's Kingdom is growing and God is at work amongst us. We offer to God our love, our faith and our lives. In bearing fruit in God's service, may the abundance of Kingdom harvest be made real on earth.

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

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

Cover Image: "Harvest Festival", Pixabay.

We give a very warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us today, either in the sanctuary or on-line. If you are sitting next to a microphone, it is in use.

This Service will be live-streamed and you may be seen on camera, although we will not deliberately take any close-ups of the congregation. By attending you agree to be seen in this way. If you have any concerns, please speak with our Church Secretary.

If you are visiting for the first time, please do fill out a visitor's card, which can be found in the vestibule. We would be very pleased to stay in touch with you.

Play-bags are available for our youngest friends in the vestibule. These may be used, under parental supervision, until our younger friends leave for Junior Church.

We extend a very warm invitation to you all to join us after the Service for coffee and friendship in our Fellowship Room downstairs. Please leave the sanctuary by the door on the right at the front and turn downstairs. There is a lift, if you require one. When using the lift, please keep your finger on the button until you have arrived at your destination.

If you would like to make a donation to support our Church's life and witness, donations may be made by cash in the offertory bags hanging on the end of the pews at the back of church or, at the end of the Service, on the large offertory plate by the door leading to coffee. Donations may also be made through the card reader on the shelf by the right hand door at the back of Church.

*More information on our Church's life and witness may be found at
www.standrewswithcastlegate.org.uk.
www.facebook.com/StAndrewsWithCastleGate
www.instagram.com/StAndrewsWithCastleGate*

St Andrew's with Castle Gate United Reformed Church is registered with the Charity Commission as: St Andrew's with Castle Gate Nottingham United Reformed Church, registered number 1129944.