

**1. stay rooted**  


**2. nourish with seasonal foods**  


**3. stay in tune with nature**  


**4. embrace healthy fats**  


**5. practice relaxation techniques**  


**6. stay active**  


**7. boost your immune system with herbs**  


**8. get quality sleep**  


**Harvest Festival**

## WHY CELEBRATE HARVEST?

Harvest has surely been celebrated ever since human beings first planted seeds, cut the heads of grain and stored them to use through the times of scarcity.

When the children of Israel entered the Promised Land and left off their nomadic existence in the wilderness, they adapted the agricultural festivals and these have come down to us today: Lammas, the time of the First Fruits, corresponds to the Feast of Weeks when the first sheaf of the barley harvest was offered.

Our Harvest Festival corresponds to the Feast of Tabernacles which is described as “the feast of ingathering, at the end of the year” (Exodus 23:16). This was the last and greatest feast of the Jewish year and it was sometimes simply referred to as ‘the feast’. During this time, the men dwelt in green booths or ‘tabernacles’ made out of branches, in commemoration of their time in the wilderness when there were no harvests, and they depended on God for their daily food.

So there is much precedent in the Old Testament for a festival thanking God for food and farming.

Land and faith in the Old Testament are inseparable. People understood their dependence on a good harvest blessed by God.

At the time of Christ it is estimated that around 90% of a person’s time would have been spent producing and preparing food. Since the very early days the Christian Church has historically played a key role in reinforcing the connection between people and the land, particularly through the Harvest Festival which really came into its own during the Victorian era.

A harvest service is an opportunity to offer to God the contribution we make in bringing food to the table; to give thanks and pray for others in the chain upon whom we are dependent; and above all to praise God who starts off each chain by creating the sun’s radiance and giving life to all living things.

## **OPENING HYMN**

## **WELCOME AND NOTICES**

## **SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE**

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, for his steadfast love endures for ever. Psalm 107.1

## **THE GREETING**

Everybody, let us get ready to cheer our farmers  
and let us give them a huge thank you for their hard work  
and feeding us , especially during the pandemic.

May this Harvest Festival be a festival of good harvest thoughts and  
uplifting prayers, of joy, hopes, and future happiness for all times to  
come , not ignoring the challenges !

**All      God is with us, here we find new life.**

## **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

**All**      Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,  
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

**All**      **Creator God,**  
**forgive our moments of ingratitude,**  
**the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder**  
**that is this world,**  
**the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth.**

**Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing.  
Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, our hands to share  
May our feet tread lightly on the path we tread  
and our footsteps be worthy of following for they lead to you. Amen**

## **THE ABSOLUTION**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS** *[sung by the choir]*

**Glory to God in the highest  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
Almighty God and Father  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. AMEN.**

## **THE COLLECT**

**All Amen**

## THE FIRST READING

*At the end of the **FIRST READING** the reader will say*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

**HYMN** *sung by the Choir*

## THE GOSPEL READING

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*At the end of the Gospel reading the reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## TALK

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**All We believe that Creation is a gift of God,  
an expression of our Creator's goodness.**

**We believe that as human beings we are part of this creation  
and that we share in a special way in the creative power of God.**

**We believe that the resources of our land, waters and air,  
animals on the land and in the sea are precious gifts from our Creator,  
to be used and looked after with loving care.**

**We believe that there is a rhythm to God's creation, like a drum beat;  
When we lose the beat, or the drum is damaged, the music is out of tune.**

**Amen**

*(Pacific Women's 'Consultations on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation'.) rom *Prayers and Poems, Songs and Stories*, WCC 1988.)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION [SIT OR KNEEL]

*Let us pray for the world and the church and thank God for his goodness*

*The prayers are then said.*

*This response may be used:*

**All Lord, in your mercy  
Hear our prayer**

*At the end, the intercessor may say:*

**All Merciful Father  
accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour Jesus Christ  
Amen**

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### THE PEACE

The kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking,  
but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All And also with you**

## PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

### TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

*The president says:*

With this bread that we bring	<b>All</b>	<b>We shall remember Jesus.</b>
With this wine that we bring	<b>All</b>	<b>We shall remember Jesus.</b>
Bread for his body,	<b>All</b>	<b>Wine for his blood,</b>
Gifts from God to his table we bring.	<b>All</b>	<b>We shall remember Jesus.</b>

### The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.	<b>All</b>	<b>His Spirit is with us.</b>
Lift up your hearts.	<b>All</b>	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.		<b>It is right to give thanks and praise.</b>

Question: Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

**Answer: Listen, and we will hear.**

Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory.  
You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish.  
You give us the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, and every plant and tree;  
the life that sleeps in the winter earth, and awakens again in the spring.  
You made us all, each wonderfully different,  
to join with the angels and proclaim your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father,  
because, when we turned away,  
you sent Jesus, your Son.  
He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Question: Why do we share this bread and wine?

**Answer: Listen, and we will hear.**

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen,  
Jesus took bread.

He gave thanks, broke it,  
and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of  
sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.  
As you feed us with these gifts,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
and change us more and more  
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Question: How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Answer: **Listen, and we will hear.**

Help us, Father, to love one another,  
as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended,  
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints  
we give you glory, through Jesus Christ,  
in the strength of the Spirit,  
today and for ever. Amen.

## THE LORDS PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
he power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.**

**All Amen**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**All**    **Though we are many, we are one body,  
Because we all share in one bread**

*The **AGNUS DEI** is sung by the choir*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace**

## **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

*The president says:*

Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All**    **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*All come forward to receive Communion or a Blessing*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Silence is kept*

*The president says the Post Communion Collect*

*The Post Communion Prayer is said.*

**All**    **Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood  
of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

May the road rise to meet you,  
may the wind be always at your back,  
may the sun shine warm upon your face,  
may the rains fall softly upon your fields.  
Until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen**

## HYMN

## THE DISMISSAL

Freely you have received, freely give.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**All In the name of Christ. Amen**

Thank you to all who decorated the church for our Harvest celebration,  
to the farmers for joining us, to Margaret Coales sharing her story with us

Thank you to all for giving Harvest gifts for Maidstone Christian Care.

*With thanks from all at All Saints Church.*