

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR 18 OCTOBER 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP:

What mighty praise belongs to You, O God!

You are the hope of everyone on earth.

Even those who live at the farthest ends of the earth
stand in awe of your wonders.

From where the sun rises to where it sets,

You inspire shouts of joy.

What mighty praise belongs to You, O God!

Let us praise Your Holy Name!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

HYMN

1) We plough the fields with tractors,

with drills we sow the land;

But growth is still the wondrous gift

of God's almighty Hand.

We add our fertilisers

to help the growing grain,

But for its full fruition

it needs God's sun and rain.

All good gifts around us,

Are sent from heaven above;

Then share them all, Oh! Share them all,

The great gifts of His love.

2) The hay was scythed and pitch forked

to make a bonny ruck,

The threshing mull was hard work,

and so was spreading muck.

With many new machines now

we do the work each day;
We reap the fields with combines,
we bale the new mown hay.

CHORUS:

3) We thank You then, O Father,
for life so rich and good,
For seed-time and the harvest,
the wealth of daily food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all Your love imparts,
But what You most desirest -
our humble thankful hearts.

CHORUS:

(Revised words:Dr. Kay Gauld;
to be used only with her permission.)

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 65

Thanksgiving for Earth's Bounty,
A Psalm of David. A Song.
Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;
and to you shall vows be performed,
O you who answer prayer!
To you all flesh shall come.
When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.
Happy are those whom you choose
and bring near to live in your courts.
We shall be satisfied with
the goodness of your house, your holy temple!
By awesome deeds you answer us
with deliverance, O God of our salvation;

you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.
By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.
You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.
Those who live at earth's farthest bounds
are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning
and the evening shout for joy.
You visit the earth and water it,
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain,
for so you have prepared it.
You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.
You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,
the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

PSALM 126:4-6

Restore our fortunes, Lord,
like streams in the Negev.

Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.

FIRST PRAYER

SKETCH

HYMN

1) We eat the plants that grow from the seed,
But it's God who gives the harvest.
Cures can be made from herbs and from weeds,
But it's God who gives the harvest.
Everything beneath the sun,
All the things we claim we've done,
All are part of God's creation:
We can meet people's needs
with things we grow from seed,
But it's God who gives the harvest.

2) We find the iron and turn it to steel,
But it's God who gives the harvest.
We pull the levers, we turn the wheels,
But it's God who gives the harvest.
Everything we say we've made,
Plastic bags to metal spades,
All are part of God's creation:
We can make lots of things
From microchips to springs,
But it's God who gives the harvest.

(Susan Mee; trad. English melody, arr. Noel Rawsthorne CCL 215337)

ORDINATION and ADMISSION of new elders.

PRAYER:

God of grace, you have called us all to be servants of Christ Jesus, and to share in his ministry of love and comfort to all people. Renew our zeal, give us joy in your service. Direct us by your Spirit of wisdom and fill us with the gifts of your grace, that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, Amen.

SIGNING OF THE FORMULA by new elders.

HYMN

1) Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noontide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.
Bringing in the sheaves, bringing in the sheaves,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves! (Repeat.)

2) Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest, and the labour ended,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Chorus:

3) Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master, ^[L]_[SEP]
Though the loss sustained our spirit often grieves; ^[L]_[SEP]
When our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome, ^[L]_[SEP]
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Chorus:

BENEDICTION