

**ST PETER & ST PAUL'S
CHURCH, AYLESFORD**



Sunday Service
Harvest Festival
Trinity 17
26th September 2021

Welcome and Gathering

From the Bible

God is able to provide us with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, we may share abundantly in every good work.
cf. 2 Corinthians 9.8

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ.

Let us bring our gifts to the Lord
that they may be used for his glory.

May the Spirit of God fill our hearts
as we come to meet him in this place.

Hymn

Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest-home:
all be 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 this world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
grant, O harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall purge away
all that doth offend, that day;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.

Then, thou church triumphant, come.
raise the song of harvest-home:
all be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there for ever purified
in God's garner to abide:
come, ten thousand angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest-home.
Henry Alford (1810-1871) and others

Reflection

Harvest of what? *By Liz Crumlish*

The Collect

**God of grace, ever creating and restoring,
you breathe life into all things and
embrace us with an everlasting love;
help us to grow in wonder and awe, to
embody a spirit of gratitude, and to
dream generous dreams; that, in
gathering what we have, we may
graciously offer ourselves to accomplish
what you will, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Ignatian Prayer for Generosity

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labour and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.

St Ignatius of Loyola / Music by Jandi Arboleda

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

1 Timothy 6.11-12, 17-21

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 6.19-33

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Address

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Remorse

Based on Psalm 146

Wonderful, all-encompassing God, we thank you for the wonders of your creation;
for heaven and earth, sea and sky, teeming with living things.

We thank you that you keep faith with us,
even when we lose faith in you.

We thank you that out of your generosity
there is more than enough for all your creatures.

We thank you that in your sure purposes,
justice will be done and your rule will come.

Lord our God, we confess that we have got things out of place. We have put our trust in mortals, in princes; we have put our trust in our own self-sufficiency and in material prosperity.

Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

We have forgotten who we are, living as if the earth belonged to us, not to you, neglecting our role as stewards of your creation.

Christ, have mercy:

Christ, have mercy.

We have neglected the poor, preferring comfortable ignorance to uncomfortable truth.

Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

Hear then these words of grace:

‘Your sin is forgiven.’

Come, let us live as forgiven people, dependent upon all that God provides, open to the life of the Spirit in us and in others, for Jesus’ sake. **Amen.**

Richard Sharples

Our Gifts

Food for the Food Bank and money for the 2021 Poverty & Hope Appeal

Hymn

In the darkness of the still night
In the dawning of the daylight
In the mystery of creation
Creator God, You are there
In the breath of every being
In the birthing and the growing
In the earth and all its fullness
Creator God, You are there

In the darkness of the still night
In the dawning of the daylight
In the mystery of creation
Creator God, You are there
In the breath of every being
In the birthing and the growing
In the earth and all its fullness
Creator God, You are there

Continued ...

In the homeless and the hungry
In the broken and the lonely
In the grieving of Your people
Creator God, You are there
In the tears and in the heartache
In the love through which we serve You
In the anguish of the dying
Creator God, You are there

In our hearts and in our thinking
In the longing and the dreaming
In the yearning of our heartbeat
Creator God, You are there
In the love for one another
In the sharing of our being
In receiving and forgiving
Creator God, You are there

In our joys, our hopes, our healing
In awakening to revealing
In Your call and our responding
Creator God, You are there
In our prayer and in our service
In our praise and in our worship
In Your love that is eternal
Creator God, You are there

Margaret Rizza © 2014 KM Records

Offertory Prayer

God of all creation,
the source of life and giver of all good
things; through your goodness you have
blessed us with these gifts. With them we
offer our lives; that we may be used to
serve others, and give you glory. We make
our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ,
our Lord. **Amen.**

A Litany of Generosity

Let us give thanks to God
for his gifts so generously given to us,
and for the blessings we are called to share.

For recognising that all things come from you,
for remembering that we are stewards of
your gifts,
for wisely using the resources entrusted to us.
We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For rejoicing in the beauty of creation,
for the care of your world,
for sharing the fruits of creation equally
among all people.
We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For encountering the joy of giving,
for humility in putting others' needs
before our own,
for embracing the privilege of sharing in
the ministry to the saints.
We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For courage in offering sacrificial generosity,
for giving to be an act of worship,
for grace in offering our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For all financial gifts offered to your Church,
for freely giving as we have received,
for giving and not counting the cost.
We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For releasing our hold on material
possessions,
for contentment in what we have,
for trust in letting go.
We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For generosity in love, encouragement
and hope,
for openness in invitation and hospitality,
for wisdom in the gift of friendship.
We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For serving you as you deserve,
for following our calling as your disciples,
for serving you with gladness of heart.
We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For being a blessing through the blessings
we receive,
for generosity which enables mission,
for sharing abundantly in every good work.
We offer ourselves to you, O God.

For living a generous life,
for our actions to point beyond themselves,
for our generosity to be an expression of
love and gratitude.

We offer ourselves to you, O God. Amen.

Prayers

Response

Source of all life and giver of all that is good,
hear our prayer.

And at the end

Source of all life and giver of all that is good,
**hear our prayer, and make us one in
heart and mind to serve you with joy
forever. Amen.**

Ending with The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Sending

News and Notices

Hymn

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 for ever wilt be.

*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 spring-time 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

*Thomas O Chisholm (1866-1960) © 1923,
renewal 1951. Hope Publishing Company.*

A Harvest Blessing

In our sowing and our harvesting,
in our cooking and our eating,
in our living and in our giving;

**Let us
till the earth gently,
fish the seas wisely,
tend the animals lovingly,
share with the hungry generously,
pay the worker fairly,
enjoy the food thankfully,
praise the Giver abundantly.**

So may the Father who provides for all
creatures, the Son who encompasses all in
his mercy, the Spirit who gives breath to all
living things bless our lives with goodness
and guide us in generous living. **Amen.**

Continued ...

A Final Thought

May you be the blessing:
may you be the justice in the harvest,
the sharing in the community,
the hope in the neighbourhood.

May your gift of self
be a blessing to many.

May you be the change the world needs:
the light in the shadows,
the truth in the darkness,
the healing in the hurt.

May our gift of self
be a blessing to the world.

For you need to be no other
than yourself.
It is enough.

Roddy Hamilton

MOBILE PHONE GIVING

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