

St Mary's Harvest Communion Service

"Things great have small beginnings. Every downpour is just a raindrop; every fire is just a spark; every harvest is just a seed; every journey is just a step because without that step there will be no journey; without that raindrop there can be no shower; without that seed there can be no harvest."

William Wilberforce

Prayer of gathering

God of the harvest, you place us at the centre of your creation, feed us, equip us, provide for us and help us.

Look to a different harvest.

God of the harvest, feed us, prune us, harvest us, that our lives might bring glory to you.

The choir will sing.

A litany for the Harvest.

In the beginning there was nothing, and out of nothing you fashioned a universe so vast, so unimaginable that we can only sigh with amazement when we stare upwards on a star-lit night. And within this universe you positioned the Earth and populated it, provided for it and designed for it to be a place of beauty.

Creator God: **Thank you**

In the beginning there was just potential; the seed within the packet, soil's nutrients, sunshine's warmth, rain clouds gathering. And within the tiny seed all that is our daily bread encoded, primed and ready should it be planted and allowed to grow. Creator God: **Thank you**

In the beginning there was humankind, placed within your garden, made steward and caretaker of this place of beauty, given responsibility and capacity to enjoy. And yet among the seeds we have sown, have been weeds and crops of our own choosing, which have not shown fruit or have spread and choked the earth. Creator God: **Forgive us**

Our confession and absolution

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

All: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness: to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

May God forgive you; Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. **Amen.**

All: Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness: to the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

May God forgive you; Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. **Amen.**

Harvest Collect

God our creator, you have made us one with this earth, to tend it and to bring forth fruit; may we so respect and cherish all that has life from you, that we may share in the labour of all creation to give birth to your hidden glory, through Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

Bible reading

Sermon

Harvest Affirmation of Faith

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 and waters and air 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.

We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen

(Pacific Women's 'Consultations on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation'.)

The Intercessions

The Peace

May the God of peace, relax the tensions of our bodies,
still the anxieties of our minds, calm the storms of our hearts,
give us courage to wait.

The peace of the Lord be always with you....**And also with you**

A hymn will be sung

The Eucharist

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Our God enlightens the light to the sun, he strengthens the light of the night and the stars, he makes wells in the arid land and dry islands in the Sea, and he places the stars in the service of the greater lights.

He has a Son who is co-eternal with himself; and similar in all respects to himself; and neither is the Son younger than the Father, nor is the Father older than the Son;

and the Holy Spirit breathes in them. And the Father and Son and Holy Spirit are inseparable.

And so, we offer grateful thanks to our God for the fruits of the earth, the down-coming of the rains, the ripening warmth of the sun and the seeds and fruits of every year.

Therefore, we join with angels and archangels, and give voice to every creature under heaven, for ever praising you and singing;

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and God of might.

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine. Again, he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of our faith

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

As we receive you now Lord,

May we always walk gently upon this earth, in right relationship,
nurtured by your Love, taking only what we need,
giving back to the earth in gratitude, sharing what we have,
honouring all with reverence, reconciling and healing;
mindful of those who will come after,
recognising our proper place as part of your creation.

Grant us the strength and courage, we pray,
for such radical transformation into your Kingdom.

Then we, too, with the very stones will shout, “HOSANNA”!

As we receive the bread, the choir will sing.

Blessing

May the Father, who fed his children with bread and honey in the wilderness,
strengthen you in your pilgrimage to the Promised Land. **Amen.**

May the Son, who gave his flesh for food and his blood for drink,
keep you in eternal life and raise you up on the last day. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, empower you to proclaim his
death until he comes. **Amen.**

As you have been fed at this table... go to feed the hungry.

As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned.

As you have received, give: as you have heard, proclaim.

And the blessing which you have received from Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be always with you all **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ Amen