The Blyth Valley
Team Ministry

Welcome
to Harvest Festival
Autumn 2020 (C-19 adapted)

Introduction and welcome

The land has yielded its harvest:
God, our God has blessed us.
In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Call to worship
Creator God, breathing your own being into our being, you give us the gifts of life and love.
You placed us on this earth
with its flowers and fruits, minerals and waters,
living creatures of grace and beauty.
At harvest time
the earth reaches its peak of fruitfulness.
All human activity is designed
to come to fruition and have meaning and purpose.
It depends on us to praise you
by harvesting its goods in ways that ensure
that there will be harvests in the future.
You gave us the care of the earth.
May we fulfil that charge with responsibility
that we benefit all but harm nothing.
Amen.

Harvest collect
Almighty and bountiful God,
you have given us this earth
as an inheritance for ourselves and the generations to come:
accept, we pray, the fullness of our harvest,
and guard our thankful hearts and minds in Christ Jesus,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Concluding prayer
In Christ you call us to a new way of life, loving our neighbours before ourselves. Help us to treat with care and respect the world as it is, as we live in hope and anticipation of the world as it will be when your kingdom comes and your will is done. We thank you for those, living and departed, who have shown a true respect for your creation … help us to follow in their footsteps, until, with them we see you face to face, where all is made new in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The blessing
God the Father, who created the world, give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation. God the Son, who redeemed the world, inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest. God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation, help you to bear his fruits of love, joy, and peace to all people.

The dismissal
Freely you have received, freely give! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Spiritual Communion
Father of all,
I thank you for the gift of the holy body and precious blood
of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Since at this time I cannot receive him in the holy sacrament,
may he come spiritually into my heart.
May the body of my Lord Jesus Christ which was broken for me,
keep my body and soul in eternal life.
May the blood of my Lord Jesus Christ which was shed for me,
keep my body and soul in eternal life
And may I feed on him whom I have received in my heart,
by faith with thanksgiving. Amen.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
so that we, in the company of all the Saints
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Silence is kept. (see page 11 for spiritual communion)

The Lord's prayer

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, the power and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.

Penitence
As we celebrate your goodness
so we confront our own sin;
we regret our greed and insensitivity;
we recognise our failure to appreciate what we have,
and the opportunities you have given;
we are sorry for our readiness to complain and our unwillingness to praise.
Father, forgive and renew us.

We have taken our food for granted
and failed to appreciate the efforts of others
or poorly rewarded them;
we have shown self-centred blindness
to the needs of others
deliberate deafness to the cries of the hungry and thirsty, and
coldness of heart to those crying for affection.

Father, forgive and renew us.
We have done little
to avoid our countryside being threatened,
its economy put at risk,
its community becoming disheartened and confused,
its isolation ignored.
Father, forgive and renew us.

May our sins be forgiven,
our blindness, deafness and coldness of heart be healed. May your renewing spirit rest on us
and fill us with your love and hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bible readings

Address

The Creed

Please stand to say the Creed. There may be words of introduction.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus
Christ; took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying;
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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

And so, Father,
calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins
of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension, and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ,
your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness
to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
because in him, our risen Lord,
the new creation is being brought to perfection,
a broken world is being renewed,
and creation itself will share
in the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

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!

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering of harvest goods

The offering of eggs, from God's good creatures to sustain us and bring new life.
God, our God has blessed us.

The offering of topsoil, a symbol of God's good creation.
God, our God has blessed us.

The offering of vegetables: the earth has yielded its increase.
God, our God has blessed us.

The offering of flowers: consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
God, our God has blessed us.

The offering of fruit: the land shall yield its increase, and all the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.
God, our God has blessed us.

The offering of grain: the valleys stand so thick with corn they shout for joy and sing.
God, our God has blessed us.

The offering of water: the precious element that sustains life and from which life on earth flowed.
God, our God has blessed us.

The harvest loaf: blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer which earth has given and human hands have made.
God, our God has blessed us.

The offering of an empty bowl: a symbol of harvests that fail or are destroyed , and of people around the world who suffer from hunger.
God, our God have mercy.

We bring these gifts to God in thankfulness for the harvest and pray that they may be used in his name to his praise on glory. Amen.

The prayers
Please sit or kneel for the prayers

The response after the words "Lord of the harvest" is **"Hear our prayer".**

Act of thanksgiving

Today we offer our heartfelt thanks to our God for the fruits of the earth, the falling of the rains the ripening warmth of the sun and the seeds and fruits of every season. We remember the blessing we have enjoyed and hold in our hearts those whose lives are less blessed especially the hungry and the homeless.

May we always walk gently upon this earth in right relationships, 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 us, and recognising our proper place as part pf your creation.
Amen.

The sharing of the peace
The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you!
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Preparation of the Altar

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

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