**Westfield Harvest** **10.30 am** **3rd October 2021**

**Call to Worship Psalm 8**

**LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**You have set your glory in the heavens.**

**Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?**

**You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour.**

**You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.**

**LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.**

**Hymn No. M.P. 106 Come you thankful people come**

Come, you thankful people, come,

raise the song of harvest-home!

Fruit and crops are gathered in,

safe before the storms begin:

God, our Maker, will provide

for our needs to be supplied;

come, with all His people, come,

raise the song of harvest-home!

All the world is God's own field,

harvests for His praise to yield,

wheat and weeds together sown,

here for joy or sorrow grown:

first the blade, and then the ear,

then the full corn shall appear;

Lord of harvest Lord, grant that we

wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come

and shall bring His harvest home;

He himself on that great day,

worthless things shall take away,

give His angels charge at last

in the fire the weeds to cast,

but the fruitful ears to store

in His care for ever more.

Even so, Lord, quickly come

to Your final harvest-home;

gather all your people in

free from sorrow, free from sin

there together purified,

ever thankful at Your side -

come, with all Your angels, come,

bring that glorious harvest home!

HENRY ALFORD (1810-71) altd\* CCLI 150801

**Prayer and Lord’s Prayer**

Creator God ,

We come today to praise and worship you

And to give thanks for all you created

you provide for our wants year by year and generation by generation.
You love us and you give us food and shelter.
You give us people to care for us and to be cared for by us.
You give us community, and you call us to be part of the one world community.
You enrich our lives with the miracle of growth

 the wonder of life

 the variety of harvest

We bring you our thanksgiving

For the beauty of the seasons

The daily changes through day and night

your vital gifts of rain and sunshine

But especially today

We celebrate the gathering up of your harvest

In order that we can share what is produced

With each other and those in greater need.

Bless our time together this morning

In the name of Jesus

 our Saviour, guide and example,

who shows us how you intend life on earth to be.
Amen

We say together the prayer Jesus taught us ….

**Share round the table examples of past harvests you have been at – what makes harvest celebrations memorable?**

**What about the future? share Neil’s prayer sheet and pray for what might bring us closer to God & closer to the community we are placed in.**

**Notices, Mission Prayer & offertory**

Dear God, Bless our gifts of money, produce and time – we dedicate all our harvest giving to further your work and witness in our world. Amen

our next hymn reminds us that

for our daily food we can prepare the ground

but only God can make things grow.

**Hymn No. M.P 732 We plough the fields and scatter**

We plough the fields, and scatter

the good seed on the land,

but it is fed and watered

by God's almighty hand;

He sends the snow in winter,

the warmth to swell the grain,

the breezes and the sunshine,

and soft refreshing rain:

*All good gifts around us*

*are sent from heaven above,*

*then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,*

*for all his love.*

He only is the maker

of all things near and far;

He paints the wayside flower;

He lights the evening star;

the winds and waves obey Him,

by Him the birds are fed;

much more to us, His children,

He gives our daily bread:

*All good gifts around us...*

We thank You then, O Father,

for all things bright and good,

the seed-time and the harvest,

our life, our health, our food.

Accept the gifts we offer

for all Your love imparts,

we come now Lord to give You

our humble, thankful hearts:

*All good gifts around us...*

Matthias Claudius (1740-1815) tr. Jane Montgomery Campbell (1817-78) altd. © 1986 Horrobin/Leavers CCLI 150801

**NT Reading Luke 12 v 16 – 21**

And Jesus told them this parable:

“The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest.

He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.

And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Andrew

Do you consider yourself green fingered?

Do you like gardening and are you good at it?

I am considered the digger and shifter in our household.

Is your garden a reflection of your talents and hard work or your hard work and God rewarding it by bringing out the beauty of his creation in your garden.

The rich man in our bible reading was doing really well. He owned lots of land that had produced a bountiful harvest and he had lots of barns in which to store it. But that wasn’t enough. He wanted more… those with plenty always seem to want more, and, perhaps in some ways, that is an encouragement to work hard but it was his attitude in believing that it was all his own doing that brought about his downfall. He believed it was by his own efforts that he was so rich and if he then built more barns so he could store more grain then he would be even richer and live a life of luxury for the rest of his days. There was no thought that anyone else should get any credit or thanks.

But, we know that we can dig the soil and feed it, sow the seeds and water them, but only God can make them grow and this rich man should have known that too. But he was selfish, he didn’t think about helping those less fortunate than himself,

and if he did it was not for long and he certainly didn’t do anything about it, and didn’t thank God for his blessing and his bounty.

We never know what tomorrow brings so to make plans for a rich life style and long life roved futile for the man as his life ended that very night and others would benefit from all that he left behind.

God is an amazing God and for me he is a God who gives generously to those who he knows will not keep it for themselves but give generously to help those less fortunate than themselves. God loves a cheerful and generous giver. That is why we can not only

celebrate with joy the bounty of his harvest but know that he will give us sufficient that we can then give to help others such as the Food Bank and Commitment for Life.

So as we celebrate today let us praise him and give him the glory for the bountiful harvest and then generously give what we can to support at this time two very needy causes and what we do will speak to them powerfully about how much God loves them and cares about them and see how that gives them hope because others care and things can get better.

As we sing our next hymn think about the words you are singing as they remind us of God’s love for all people and his desire to feed and care for them.

**Hymn Join the harvest celebration (tune MP 83)**

*Join the harvest celebrations,*

*Let us all give thanks today;*

*Let us shout and tell the nations,*

*There’s enough for everyone!*

See them laughing,

when the crops are harvested,

join them, singing,

knowing now that no one need be hungry.

 *Join the harvest celebrations....*

Harvest gladness

fills us all with hope and joy,

food in plenty

makes us glad to share the earth’s resources

 *Join the harvest celebrations....*

Greed and envy,

prejudice and selfishness,

have no place where

bread and wine proclaim the love of Jesus

 *Join the harvest celebrations....*

Children waiting,

let them all be satisfied;

feed them, tell them

they are born to be God’s sons and daughters.

 *Join the harvest celebrations,*

 *pray God’s holy time will come,*

 *with the children of the nations,*

 *celebrating! – every day!*

*Anon CCLI 150801*

You have a green heart shape and a biro –

Study the bible verse / Christian quote – what stands out to you ?

take a moment to think about or write down

what words ( from the bible -from hymns – any you have heard this morning – or used over the last weeks from Shine )

help you to be committed to serving God and other people

and to look after the world he has given us to live in.

 pray for each other’s hearts - collect up ( Imogen ) and say a prayer for ( will put them up after the service bible verse side around the room to add to our green display.)

K - **Commitment for life example video of what is being done in Nicuargua – young URC adults experiencing where the money goes and sharing their faith in these different countries. Hill song singing.**

Play video

As we reflect on the work and witness we have just seen an example of we sing

**MP 806 Beauty for Brokenness**

Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair,

Lord, in Your suffering world this is our prayer.

Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace,

sunrise to sunset, Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills,

work for the craftsmen, trade for their skills;

land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak,

voices to plead the cause of those who can’t speak.

*God of the poor, friend of the weak,*

*give us compassion we pray:*

*melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain;*

*come, change our love from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear,

cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share.

Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green,

Christ for the bitterness, His cross for the pain.

Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams

plundered and poisoned our future, our dreams.

Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed;

make us content with the things that we need.

*God of the poor….*

Lighten our darkness, breathe on the flame

until Your justice burns brightly again;

until the nations learn of your ways,

seek Your salvation and bring You their praise.

*God of the poor….*

Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way CCLI 150801

**Prayers of Intercession**

Living God

Creator of all that was, is and will be

We thank you for the world you gave us to live in

With all it’s wonderful variety

For your gift of life

Constantly being renewed

For all you make to grow and flourish

To feed and clothe and house us

You have blessed us with so much

We thank you for all

Who have helped provide the harvest this year

Workers on farms

Fishermen

Miners and engineers

Scientists and technicians

Those who help develop better crops

Help us appreciate all so many do

To bring us the fruits of creation

And teach us the part we must play

So that generations to come

May enjoy all that harvest provides

Teach us to use your gifts wisely

Responsibly

Effectively

So there is less waste

As we pray for the work and witness of Commitment for life, Christian Aid and the Wyke foodbank who we support today ….

Help us to remember

Those who do not have an equal share

The poor, hungry, homeless, oppressed

Those overwhelmed by disasters

And those whose crops have failed

Inspire us to share with those who cry out for help

You have blessed us with so much

Help us to respond in Jesu’s name, Amen

**We share our final hymn ….**

**Hymn No. M.P.200 Great is thy faithfulness**

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 springtime and harvest,

sun, moon and stars in their courses above,

join with all nature in manifold witness

to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

 *Great is Thy faithfulness....*

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!

 *Great is Thy faithfulness....*

T. O. CHISHOLM (1866-1960) CCLI 150801

The Blessing – share the Grace

Fellowship around the tables – move round safely if you want to talk to someone not on your table – tea / coffee will be served. If you don’t eat up now please take home a green biscuit/ apple to remind you of our harvest and show the love as the week progresses by sharing as Jesus would with others you meet in the community.