

# A Somerset Harvest Thanksgiving



## 1. Welcome and Introductions

## 2. Greeting

The earth is the Lord's

**All: And everything within it!**

Let us come near to the Lord with  
thanksgiving

**All: and sing his praises!**

## 3. Hymn: Come Ye Thankful People Come

## 4. Confession

*(please sit or kneel)*

Let us confess our forgetfulness of  
God, our failure to give thanks and  
the ways in which we have wasted  
the gifts of creation.

We confess to you our lack of care  
for the world you have given us.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our selfishness  
in not sharing the earth's bounty  
fairly.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our failure to  
protect resources for others.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May God show us his mercy,  
restore us in his likeness and give  
us generous hearts and lives.

**Amen.**

## 5. Celebration of Harvest Gifts

*Gifts brought forward and, facing the  
congregation:*

### Basket of apples

**Presenter:** We celebrate the gift of  
apples – fruit for myriad puddings,  
cider to refresh and lift our hearts  
and pomace for our animals

**All: Thank you Lord, for our  
orchard fruits**

### Churn or Jug of milk

**Presenter:** We celebrate the daily  
gift of cows, goats and ewe's milk  
– such goodness – our famous  
cheeses, butter, yoghurts, ice-  
cream and more

**All: Thank you Lord, for our dairy  
products**

### Harvest loaf

**Presenter:** We celebrate the gift of  
cereal crops – wheat, barley, oats  
and more. Flour for our bread,  
cakes and biscuits, straw for our  
roofs and animal bedding

**All: Thank you Lord, for the corn  
safely gathered in**

Basket of vegetables

**Presenter:** We celebrate the gift of our climate and soil here in the West, helping us grow all manner of vegetables in our fields and gardens

**All: Thank you Lord, for our local 5 a day**

Bag of seed

**Presenter:** We celebrate seed for the future, gathered today so we can eat tomorrow.

**All: Thank you Lord, for the harvest of seeds**

*(Other gifts local to the church could be included, eg. joints of local meat, a tray of fish, a bottle of rapeseed oil, a bunch of cut flowers or withies, etc.)*

**6. Harvest Collect**

Eternal God,  
you crown the year with your goodness  
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**7. Hymn: For the Fruits of His Creation**

**8. This Year's Harvest**

(a conversation with local producer)

**9. Reading: 2 Corinthians 9 6-15**

**10. Hymn: Fill your Hearts with Joy and Gladness**

*(sung to tune of Ode to joy)*

**11. Reading: The Sower (WGRG appended) or Luke 12 16-30**

**12. Talk**

**13. Hymn: Beauty for Brokenness**

or

**All Good Gifts**

*(sung to We Plough the Fields)*

1. We plough the fields, and scatter  
the good seed on our lands,  
but nations who are deep in debt  
are left with empty hands.  
The world is full of people  
who struggle to survive,  
while we have food in plenty -  
O God, our care revive!

*Refrain*

*All good gifts around us  
are sent for all to share;  
we ask you, Lord, to help us strive  
for justice everywhere.*

2. The fields of many countries are tilled to pay their debt, and so disease and poverty remain a constant threat. Their goods, unfairly traded, make losses for our gain, as most of all the profits in wealthy hands remain.  
*Refrain.*

3. God's beautiful creation is fast becoming spoiled, and deserts overrun the ground where once the farmers toiled.  
*Refrain.*

4. Forgive us this pollution of much that you have made, and show us the solution for fair and equal trade.

*Refrain*

#### **14. Prayers (appended)**

*Response* – Lord in your love  
**Hear our prayer**

followed by **Lord's Prayer**

#### **15. Final Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King**

(Collection – suggested for a Farming charity eg. FCN or RABI, or international eg Wateraid, Tearfund or Send a Cow (Somerset based))

#### **16. Blessing and Dismissal**

God the Father, who created the world,  
give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.  
**Amen.**

God the Son, who redeemed the world,  
inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest.  
**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation, help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing ...

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation  
And go in peace to serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ**  
**Amen**