

*CELTIC*



*EVENING PRAYER*



*HARVEST*

# HARVEST THANKSGIVING

The earth is the Lord's  
**and all that is upon it.**  
Created and creative things  
**fruit and fruitfulness.**  
Springtime and summer,  
**seedtime and harvest.**



For the promise of harvest  
contained within a seed:  
**we thank you.**

For the oak tree within an acorn:  
**we thank you.**

The bread within a grain,  
the apple within a pip,  
the mystery of nature, gift wrapped for us to sow:  
**we thank you 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.**  
**Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

### *Galatians 5 : 22-26 & 6 : 7-10*

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

## REFLECTION

Nature matures in autumn, even without human help. Wild creatures enjoy the fruits of the season, badgers and birds often beating us to the blackberries!

With human cooperation, however, nature glorifies God through cultivated fields and crops, including grain and grapes, which make bread and wine.



And so it is with us when we invite God, the Holy Spirit, into our hearts to work the soil of our very being. A landscape that, untended, remains at best, stony, dry and barren and at worst produces weeds that choke the image of Christ within us.

The fruit of the Spirit gardener is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Fruit ripened and ready for a perpetual harvest to feed all people with his love, always.

## WE PRAY

For creativity in its many forms  
**we give you thanks.**

For the skill of weaver, potter,  
artist, sculptor, needle worker;  
all who take that which you have given  
and make with it something of beauty.

For fruitfulness in its many forms  
**we give you thanks.**

For selfless love,  
grace, wisdom, knowledge, sacrifice;  
all who take that which you have given  
and make with it something of beauty  
**we give you thanks.**

## WE AFFIRM OUR 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.**

**Help us, Loving God, to respect and preserve the song of the universe.  
Amen.**

## PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Let us offer to God our prayers, trusting that God hears  
and uses them in the mystery of healing the brokenness  
and pain of the world ....

For our family of humankind throughout the world .....

For the earth and all its creatures .....

For Christ's Body on earth, his Church .....

For all who are ill and in special need at this time .....

For all who have journeyed on into the arms of God ....

We hold before our gracious Lord all we carry on our hearts today ....



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(New Zealand prayer book)*

**Eternal Spirit,**

**Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,**

**Source of all that is and that shall be,**

**Father and Mother of us all,**

**Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;**

**The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trial too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.**



## **BLESSING**

**May we depart from each other  
with a deep sense of the peace of God;  
May the brightness of the sun and the fullness of the moon  
remind us of the Light of Christ within us,  
ripening the fruits of the Spirit,  
that the world may be blessed with a harvest of love.  
And until we meet again,  
may God keep us in the knowledge of his presence,  
the joy of his Creation and the power of his love.**

**Amen.**

