

# Church at home

East Leake Methodist Church 2021

*Sit comfortably in a quiet place and prepare, start with a brief period of silence, turning your mind and spirit towards God. You may want to have a cross or candle in view as a focus.*

The Earth is the Lords and all that is in it,  
let the heavens be glad and let the Earth rejoice.

## Call to worship

Holy and gracious God  
Divine mystery, wisdom and truth  
You draw us to you in love and gather us together around your Son.

We come to you as a church, together, with our work and our story.  
We come to you as a community, together - sisters and brothers, siblings,  
'watching over one another in love'

We come to you as ourselves, in this moment, known and loved within your  
great family.  
We open our lives before you.

1<sup>st</sup> Hymn StF 123 Come you thankful people come /Raise the song of harvest  
home!

Bryan  
It wouldn't be a harvest festival service without this Hymn!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FqdCskC0QE>

## Opening prayers (Video)

<https://youtu.be/BMWhtHJRJAA>

## 1 Timothy 6:6-10

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. 9 Those who want to get rich fall into

temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

### **Matthew 6:25-33**

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

28 “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

2<sup>nd</sup> Hymn StF 130 We plough the fields and scatter /the good seed on the land.

### **Hirrell**

This is one of Hirrell’s favourite hymns, along with “we plough the fields with tractors” which she likes as it’s more of a modern version.

This hymn was written by Matthias Claudius (1740-1815) it conjures up in the mind a scene of the authentic village life of a traditional England, timeless, rooted in the ideas of community co-operation being close to the land and God, families full of friendship and caring people, stooks standing in the field; the picture of Haywain by Constable, but possibly not a reality, more likely most a very hard and tough life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccVEjKfKAV4>

3<sup>rd</sup> Hymn StF 727 God in his love for us lent us this planet /gave it a purpose in time and in space.

Roger Latham

My favourite hymn for harvest festival is Singing the Faith 727 – God in his love for us and lent us this planet, by Fred Pratt Green. My reason for choosing it is that many of the traditional harvest festival hymns conjure up an image of a lost bucolic agricultural world, when after the hard work of harvest everybody sat down in the barn with ale and food and had a really good time while the bounty of the earth was all around them. It's a lovely Victorian image, but it makes very little sense in a post-industrialised world when the nearest most of us get to the food that we eat is the supermarket and not the farm. This hymn, which I think is very appropriate to our current situation with the existentialist threat of climate change speaks of our stewardship of God's world and the way in which we have abused it and seeks forgiveness. It may be a bit downbeat for harvest festival, but I think it's entirely appropriate.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwBLsS6M4jQ>

4<sup>th</sup> Hymn H&P 346 'Hear us O Lord from heaven thy dwelling-place. (Manx Fisherman's )

Lesley Allan

This hymn reminded Lesley of the time when she lived in Morecambe and had strong ties to a church attended by fisherman's families , she remembered what a risky occupation fishing was, (we all remember the "Cockle pickers" disaster)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p05wT4q9cVY>

Harvest video **Multiply Your Love: A Celebration of the Harvest**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iy4uDB9-zc>

During this video congregation may make any presentation of gifts

Brownie video?

### **Prayer Of Thanksgiving**

To the bidding: Let us bless the Lord

Please respond: **Thanks be to God**

Let us give thanks to God

For the love of our father the maker of all  
The giver of all good things

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

For the worlds beauty and changing seasons  
and for the life that we have been given;

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks Be to God.**

For Jesus Christ our saviour,  
who lived and worked among us;  
Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God**

For his suffering and death on the cross  
and his resurrection to new life

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

For the holy spirit the giver of life  
who teachers and guides us

Let us bless the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

**Amen**

5<sup>th</sup> Hymn StF 124 for the fruits of all creation thanks be to God

Sue  
Sue thinks that verse two is particularly relevant at this present time;

I can see why Sue thinks this is particularly relevant today, particularly at this time when people were struggling in “lockdown” and not able to fend for themselves and had to relied on the support of friends , neighbours local charities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CRW9qC2pqU>

## **Prayers of intercession**

Prayers of intercession, prepared by the Methodist International Church Hong Kong

Invitational God,

You spread a table before us and invite us to come.

Come, eat and drink, find refreshment, nourishment and life.

Come sit together with friend and stranger, share your stories, listen and speak, learn and rejoice, laugh and sing.

You spread a table for all, but sometimes we exclude people by our prejudices, by our unwillingness to learn, by our failure to be open to new possibilities, and sometimes unknowingly.

Forgive us and help us to learn from Jesus how to cook fish and welcome the tax collector, the sinner, the outcast, the forgotten, the lost, the foreigner, the widow and the orphan.

Sometimes we want to keep the feast to ourselves, a secret where only the knowing and the known may sit at the table. Behind high walls we sit and eat quietly and politely with friends.

But you, God, burst into the world with a loud cry of jubilee – upending tables of prejudice, greed and division and declaring that this is the day of the Lord's favour; come, eat and drink and rejoice – let streets, avenues and lanes burst with feasting and laughter, let many peoples come together, let their language be one of love, of life.

We pray for all who feel excluded from the table of the Lord, for places of war, division and mistrust. For migrants, and those who feel they have no home, for those in poverty and all who suffer injustice. We pray for those who look at the high walls of the church and feel there is no way in, no place at the table.

Let windows be opened, doors flung wide, tables set up in the streets and sweet-smelling food fill the air with the mouth-watering aroma of welcome, embrace and the love of the invitational God.

**Amen**

## **Lord's Prayer**

We share together in 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.**

6<sup>th</sup> Hymn Stf 121 Autumn Days when the grass is jewelled

Pauline

Pauline likes the lyrics to this hymn and reminds her of cloud watching.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByLoE8c6yAk>

### **The Grace**

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for evermore. Amen.