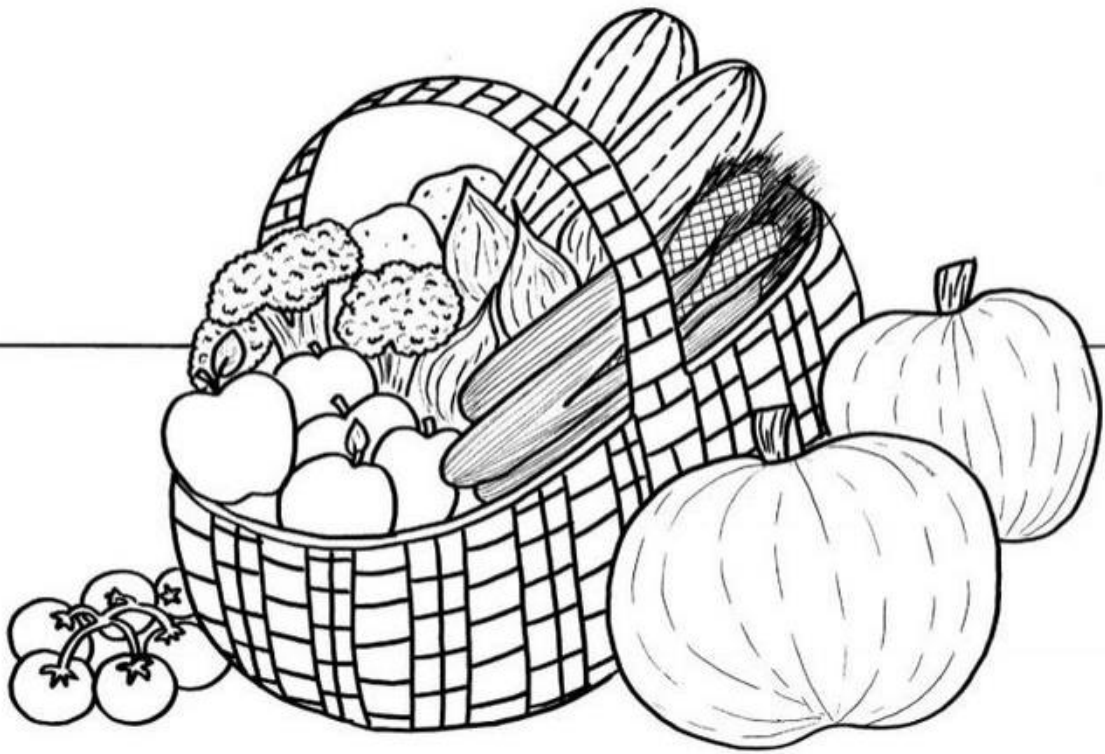




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Choral Evensong and County Harvest Festival



Sunday 5th October 2025

5.30pm

Quire

ORDER OF SERVICE

All stand to sing as the choir and clergy enter the Quire



Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest-home:
all be safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come;
raise the song of harvest-home!

³For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall purge away
all that doth offend, that day;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.

²All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
grant, O harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

⁴Then, thou Church Triumphant, come,
raise the song of harvest-home;
all be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there for ever purified,
in God's garner to abide:
come, ten thousand angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest-home!

Words: Henry Alford (1810-71)

Tune: ST GEORGE'S WINDSOR

AM 282

A welcome is offered

*The Cantor and choir sing the **Preces***

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

Music: John Morley (1557-1602)

Sit as the choir sings

Psalm 65

Thou, O God, art praised in Sion :
and unto thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.

Thou that hearest the prayer :
unto thee shall all flesh come.

My misdeeds prevail against me :
O be thou merciful unto our sins.

Blessed is the man, whom thou choolest, and receivest unto thee :
he shall dwell in thy court, and shall be satisfied with the pleasures of thy
house, even of thy holy temple.

Thou shalt shew us wonderful things in thy righteousness,
O God of our salvation :
thou that art the hope of all the ends of the earth,
and of them that remain in the broad sea.

Who in his strength setteth fast the mountains :
and is girded about with power.

Who stilleth the raging of the sea :
and the noise of his waves, and the madness of the people.

They also that dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth
shall be afraid at thy tokens :
thou that makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to praise thee.

Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it :
thou makest it very plenteous.

The river of God is full of water :
thou preparest their corn, for so thou providest for the earth.

Thou waterest her furrows, thou sendest rain into the little valleys thereof :
thou makest it soft with the drops of rain, and blessest the increase of it.

Thou crownest the year with thy goodness :
and thy clouds drop fatness.

They shall drop upon the dwellings of the wilderness :
and the little hills shall rejoice on every side.

The folds shall be full of sheep :
the valleys also shall stand so thick with corn, that they shall laugh and sing.

Stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Sit

Reading

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Stand as the choir sings

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Music: Kenneth Leighton (1929-88) Second service

Sit

Sermon

The Reverend Chris Hodgkins, Team Rector,
The Romney Marsh Benefice

Stand to sing



God, whose farm is all creation,
take the gratitude we give;
take the finest of our harvest,
crops we grow that we may live.

²Take our ploughing, seeding, reaping,
hopes and fears of sun and rain,
all our thinking, planning, waiting,
ripened in this fruit and grain.

³All our labour, all our watching,
all our calendar of care
in these crops of your creation,
take, O God: they are our prayer.

Words: Leslie Thomas John Arlott (1914-91)

Tune: GOTT WILL 'S MACHEN

AM 285

Sit

Worship and Confession

The Reverend Dr E L Pennington

As long as the earth endures
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night
will not cease.

Gracious God,
Creator, Redeemer and Life-giver,
the whole earth is alive with your glory,
overflowing with wonder and beauty and grace.

We offer you our worship and praise.

Gracious God,
Creator, Redeemer and Life-giver,
in Jesus Christ you touched the earth lovingly,
setting creation free; bringing wholeness and hope.

We offer you our worship and praise.

Gracious God,
Creator, Redeemer and Life-giver,
you breathe life into the dust of the earth,
making us human, co-creators and alive.

We offer you our worship and praise.

Gracious God,
Creator, Redeemer and Life-giver,
we rejoice in your goodness, faithfulness and love.
We accept with gratitude your many and wonderful gifts.
We seek to share in the very life of heaven, here on earth.

We offer you our worship and praise.

Let us make our confession to God:

Gracious God, source of all goodness and love,
we confess the obscuring of your image within us;
the times we betray you and one another;
when we neglect the poor and the broken
or fail to cherish creation.

We confess our striving against your Spirit;
our reluctance to hear other people's stories,
to cooperate and collaborate,
or to work in harmony with creation.

Forgive us that we may forgive one another.

Set us free that we may bring freedom and hope to others.

Renew us that we may share in the renewal of all things.

Amen

Sit as the choir sings

Anthem

i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and love and wings: and of the gay
great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any-lifted from the no
of all nothing-human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

Words: e.e. cummings (1894-1962)

Music: Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)

Sit or kneel for

Prayers read by

Di Hickman - Kent Chairman, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution RABI)

Anthony Hyde - Kent Farming Community Network (FCN),

Matt Cullen - Chairman of Kent County Agricultural Society & Kent Show

Let us offer our prayers to God for the life of the world and for all God's people
in their daily life and work.

God, the beginning and end of all things, in your providence and care you
watch unceasingly over all creation; we offer our prayers that in us and in all
your people your will may be done, according to your wise and loving purpose
in Christ our Lord.

Lord of all life, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the future of farming and for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent
Institution, for the Kent Farming Community Network and other agricultural
support agencies as they respond to changing needs; for politicians and
economists, for those who make national and international policy to ensure
that there is food for all, and that the land is maintained in good heart for
future generations.

Lord of all life, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all through whom we receive our sustenance and life;
for farmers and agricultural workers, for packers, distributors and company
boards; as you have so ordered our life that we depend upon each other,
enable us by your grace to seek the well-being of others before our own.
Especially, at this time for all places where there is famine, fire or flood, or
where agriculture has been affected by war and civil unrest.

Lord of all creation, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all engaged in research to safeguard crops against disease, and to produce abundant life among those who hunger and whose lives are at risk. Prosper the work of their hands and the searching of their minds, that their labour may be for the welfare of all.

Lord of all wisdom, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for governments and aid agencies, and those areas of the world where there is disaster, drought and starvation. By the grace of your Spirit, touch our hearts and the hearts of all who live in comfort and plenty, and make us wise stewards of your gifts.

Lord of all justice, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are ill, remembering those in hospital and nursing homes and all who are known to us. We pray for all who care for them. Give skill and understanding to all who work for their wellbeing.

Lord of all compassion, **Hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died, whom we entrust to your eternal love in the hope of the resurrection to new life.

Lord of all peace, **Hear our prayer.**

We offer ourselves to your service, asking that by the Spirit at work in us others may receive a rich harvest of love and joy and peace.

Lord of all faithfulness, **Hear our prayer.**

We say together

**Almighty God, you have provided resources of the world
to sustain the life of all your children,
and have so ordered our life that we depend on one another;
bless us in our daily work, and as you have given us
the knowledge to produce plenty, give us also wisdom
to bring it within the reach of all, and the generosity
to give our help to those in special need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say,
each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Notre Père...

Vater Unser...

Onze Vader...

Padre Nuestro...

Ojcze Nasz...

Baba Yetu...

E to matou Matua...

Ein Tad...

Stand to sing, during which a collection is taken



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.*

²He 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:

³We thank thee 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 thy love imparts,
and, what thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts:

Words: Matthias Claudius (1740-1815)
tr J Montgomery Campbell (1817-78)

Tune: WIR PFLÜGEN

AM 290

Blessing

The Bishop of Dover

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart