

*Christ Church New Southgate
& Friern Barnet*

10 October 2021

Welcome

Psalm 65

We are filled with the good things of your house
You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds,
God our Saviour,
You are the hope of all the ends of the earth
Praise God of the harvest

The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.
Praise God of the harvest

You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.
The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
Praise God of the harvest

You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.
Praise God of the harvest

The meadows are covered with flocks
and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.
Praise God of the harvest

Song: 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 heav'n 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.

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 thy love imparts,
And what Thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts

Prayer

Song: God, the maker of the heavens,
and the planet that we share,
show us how to live, like Jesus,
lives of gratitude and care.
Make us mindful of the footprints
from the lives that we pursue.
Make us partners in your mission:
you are making all things new.

God, the gardener of Eden,
teach us how to tend this earth,
learning from the changing seasons,
times of fallow and new birth.
Lord have mercy when we're careless,
rich resources we misuse.
Use our hands to heal creation:
you are making all things new.

God of labour and vocation,
Lord of science, trade and art,
take our efforts and our passions
make them mirrors of your heart.
Every habitat and creature
loved and valued, God, by you.
May our lives reveal your Kingdom:
you are making all things new.

You are making all things new.
you are making all things new,
all things renewed.

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Active Apostles creed

Reading: Psalm 126 by Gurpreet Singh

¹When the Lord restored the fortunes
of^[a] Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.^[b]
²Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for
them.”
³The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.
⁴Restore our fortunes,^[c] Lord,
like streams in the Negev.
⁵Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
⁶Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.

Song: Living hope

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation, I turned to heaven

And spoke your name into the night
Then through the darkness
Your loving kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless
grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The king of kings calls me His own
Beautiful savior, I'm yours forever
Jesus Christ, my living hope

*Hallelujah, praise the one who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

Then came the morning that sealed the
promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the roaring lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me

Then came the morning that sealed the
promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the roaring lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus, yours is the victory, whoa!

Activity: Harvest wreath craft

Pray

God our maker,
you provide for our wants year by year and
generation by generation.
You love us, your people, 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 thought and
pleasure, music, art and storytelling.
And at the centre of all this, you give us our
Lord Jesus Christ, your own being here on
earth, as Saviour and friend, guide and
example, showing us how you intend life on
earth to be.
We worship you.

(Silence)

God of harvest, you have given us
everything we need, yet we are ungrateful.
We live in bondage to our own selfishness.
We live in a world that has not yet 'made
poverty history' and where the poor live in
bondage to the rich.
We have much to learn about what it means
to be your disciples and co-workers.

(Silence)

Deliver us, O Lord. Heal us, forgive us.
Open our hearts to forgive those who have
dealt with us unfairly and to embrace the
work you call us to labour at until we return,
full of song, carrying the sheaves when you
restore the world to the glory you intend for
it.

Amen.

HAB collection and presentation

Bring Harvest gifts

Song: Freely we have received,
so freely we're going to give.
All we have comes from your generosity,
so we're going to live:
freely.

Sermon: Sowing in tears and reaping in joy

How do you feel about chores? Are you
motivated by cleaning? Are you excited about
dusting? In our house nobody really loves
chores. Our solution is this: whenever we are
doing a chore, we play music. Our dishwasher
music playlist includes – and please don't

judge: Justin Timberlake, Michael Jackson
and the Gummy bear song. It makes the task
of clearing up go faster, the music spurs us on
to finish.

Psalm 126 is a song of hope for a difficult
time. The call is Lord – please restore us!
Help us. It's a bit unclear when this was
written, but it talks about the restored
fortunes of Zion. Zion is both the people and
the place. When the people of God way back
in time before Jesus arrives had been brought
back to their homeland from exile. They had
been captured by the Babylonians and taken
as slaves or prisoners of war to a different
land and then finally they are home. It felt so
good to them they felt like they were in a
dream. The Lord has done great things for us
they said.

But v4 calls for the Lord to do it again. Psalm
126 is a song of hope in testing times, a song
that helps us get through the chores of life
and spurs us on.

Times are so hard again that the prayer is for
restoration. Restore us o lord. the psalmist
asks God to restore their fortunes like
streams in the negev. The negev was a dry
riverbed that had seasonal flash floods that
brought it to life. This summer we saw
terrible flash floods in Europe, America and
China. While all these countries I'm sure
needed rain, we know this is the wrong kind
of rain. This rain is immediate and plentiful
but causes damage as it overwhelms the earth.

If you have ever visited Ireland or Scotland,
you will know that it is very green. It is green
and lush not because there are sudden
downpours or flash floods but because it
rains gently all the time, like a gentle mist of
tears.

V5 those who sow in tears will reap with
songs of joy. Each of us will have had
different ways of coping through the
pandemic. Our big prayer might have been:
stop coronavirus now. Restore us Lord. But
what sustained us were good habits of a daily
walk, calling a friend, cups of tea, taking up a

new or old hobby. Each of us will have dark days, testing times, times when we need to endure our days. These are times of sowing. Times to plant, to be active and in faith put seeds in the ground and wait for the shoots to grow. The promise is that those who plant will see a harvest. That those who cry will know joy.

Blessed are those who mourn for theirs is the kingdom of God. Blessed are those who are poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God. God knows when we are sad, he knows when we are downbeat and weary. He calls us to hear his hope today: whenever you are sowing in tears, you will reap songs of joy. If your difficult day is one with a lot of washing up, stick a tune with a beat that you love on and it will be done in no time at all.

If your difficult day is one that is pushing you to breaking point, pull out Psalm 126. Start sowing even in your tears. Be active in hope. The Lord has already rescued us. The Lord has already sent Jesus as our saviour. The Lord has already given us his Spirit to sustain us. The Lord has already called us his children and given us a home in heaven. The Lord has already loved us before we were created in our mothers womb. The Lord has already done it. So let us have hope on our difficult days, for those who go out weeping will return with the harvest of joy. Trust God on difficult days, he is our song of hope.

Intercessions: Hand prayer

Thumb – prayer for people close to you

Pointer (1st finger) – prayer for leaders.

Middle finger – prayer for those in authority.

Fourth finger – prayer for those who are sick or weak.

Little finger – prayer for your own needs.

Song:

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 forever 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

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

Blessing

Psalm 126 Molly Parden