

Prayer Focus

October 2018

Consider these prayers and use them along with your own this month.

Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word haerfest, meaning autumn. In early harvest celebrations farmers made loaves of bread from the new grain. These were given to local churches as communion bread for the special thanksgiving service. The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843 when the Revd Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall.

Week 1

Creator God, for daily bread, and all who work to bring your harvest home, we bring our thanks today.

Forgive our ingratitude, we who have so much, yet waste what you have given.

For those for whom harvest is poor, whose crops have withered, water tainted, children starve – help those who bring relief and bestow on us an unaccustomed generosity that all might share from your garden and all might sing your praise.

Creator God, Provider of all, we bring our thanks today.

Week 2

God of harvest, gardener supreme, you place us at the centre, feed us, equip us and, having provided for us, look to a different harvest - a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others.

God of harvest, feed us, prune us, harvest us, that our lives might bring glory to you.

Week 3

Then he said to them 'The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the labourers are few. Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest, that he may send out labourers into his harvest'. (Luke Chapter 10 verse 2)

As a part of nature's wondrous cycle of new birth, growth, fruitfulness and death, we rejoice in the creation of new life; for parenthood, the passing on of knowledge, for understanding and the wisdom of years. We are grateful for those who have gone before, passing on to us our spiritual heritage. May our lives blossom as the apple tree in Spring. May we become fruitful in thought and deed and may the seed of love that falls to the ground linger beyond our time on this earth.

We give thanks for those who have gone before us, seeds planted in your rich pasture with the hope of life eternal. May their enduring spirit live on, enriching and empowering our lives, their love linger, their presence be near, until we meet once more.

Week 4

Lord, we thank you for walking with us through the seasons of our lives; for the Winter when we are held safe in your arms through the darkness, for the hope of Spring as we are filled with new promise and life, for Summer time full of warmth and colour and for Autumn days as leaves fall to seed new growth.

You are always with us and we give you thanks and praise.

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