

Order of Service

This guide is designed to help you build your own Harvest service and has an accompanying PowerPoint presentation. Our Harvest Sermon Notes and Prayer resources are also available to complement this resource.

Opening Response

Sow for yourselves righteousness.

For it is time to seek the Lord.

Break up your fallow ground.

For it is time to seek the Lord.

Bring the first fruits of all your produce.

For it is time to seek the Lord.

Reap steadfast love.

For it is time to seek the Lord.

(Hosea 10.12 and Proverbs 3.9)

Readings

The following passages could be read during your service to encourage reflection on and consideration of the themes of blessing, giving and abundance.

Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

Luke 12: 16-30*

*Sermon Notes which are also available to download explore this passage in some detail.



Anok's Story

Sharing Anok's story as part of your service will help create an understanding of the needs of people living in South Sudan and the impact Christian Aid's work is having through projects that are teaching new ways to grow crops and face the challenge of droughts and floods. You can find her story at the end of this pack. You can also **download slides** that will take you through this story for use in your service.

Talk/Sermon

You can **download our Harvest Sermon Notes** to prepare your talk on Luke 12. This resource also contains a ready-to-use All Age Harvest talk for use either for the Children's Address or in Sunday School.





Your Harvest Offering

If you are taking a collection for Christian Aid's Harvest Appeal during your service - **thank you!** It might be helpful to share the following information about how your church's gifts will support farming families across the world who continue to experience the harsh effects of the climate crisis.

£30 could buy a family vegetable seeds that tolerate drought and floods and are fast-growing - to make the most of the brief spells when growing conditions are favourable.

£60 could buy tools for a family to establish a vegetable plot and to dig flood defences in order to protect their garden.

£90 could train a community in how to grow food in a changing climate and create flood defences to protect land, harvests, livestock and water sources.

Praying for our neighbours: local and global



Our local neighbours and ourselves

Pray for causes close to home, such as your local foodbank and people experiencing poverty in your community. Pray for yourself, your family and friends, that God may guide you as you take action for a more just world.



Our global neighbours

Remembering our calling to love our neighbours as ourselves, pray for our global neighbours in places like South Sudan. Pray for those who are enduring the greatest impacts of the climate crisis. Pray for an end to hunger and food insecurity across the world.



Local and global leaders

Pray for those who hold political and economic power. Pray that they would act to tackle food insecurity and the causes of the climate crisis. Pray for wise and just leadership in our communities, governments and institutions in the UK and around the world. Pray for those excluded from power, that they will no longer be marginalised.





Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, we thank you for the gifts that spring
forth all around us,
Flowing from our fellowship,
Growing from our actions in your name.
Inspire us with your Spirit,
Encourage us to seek new ways to stand
up to injustice,
And speak up for those in need.
Send us out replenished,
That we may do the work of your kingdom.
We ask this in your name, Lord.
Amen.

Harvest Blessing

May God our Creator bless you
And make your days fruitful.
May God our Saviour guide you,
And make your ways just.
May God our Comforter
strengthen you,
And make your heart hopeful.
Amen.

Suggested Hymns and Songs

- Everything is Yours (Jake Isaac). A worship song created in partnership with Christian Aid's Black Majority Church Climate Action Group. Music and Lyrics are freely available online.
- If the Fields are Parched (Chris Jubey).
- O God of Boundless Hope (Brian Davis).
- Oh the Life of the World is a Joy and a Treasure (Kathy Galloway).
- The Song of Kingdom Come (Paul Field and Martin John Nicholls). Created in partnership with Christian Aid.
- You Made a Universe So Full of Wonder (Ally Barrett).