



**Parishes of Stainton
with Hemlington,
Hilton and
Brookfield
3rd October 2021
HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**WELCOME TO
WORSHIP AT HOME**

Thought for the day

Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year. It brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul. *Billy Graham*

Collect

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The book of the prophet Joel. 2.21-27

21 Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things!

22 Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

23 O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your

vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

24 The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

25 I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

27 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Psalm 126

R Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'

4 The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,

like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

TIMOTHY was the son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother. He was probably no older than late teens/early twenties when he joined Paul during one of his later missionary journeys. Paul called him "my true son in the faith". He served as Paul's representative to several churches and he was later a pastor in Ephesus. Paul says Timothy had a "genuine faith," the same as that which lived in his mother and grandmother Eunice and Lois.

The first letter of Paul to Timothy.

6 There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment;

7 for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it;

8 but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.

9 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that

plunge people into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from

the faith and pierced themselves with many pains

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. ch6.25–33

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples:

25 'Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?

28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin,

29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith?

31 Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?"

32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all

these things will be given to you as well.'

Praise to you, O Christ

Prayers

God, the beginning and end of all things, at this harvest time we pray for all farmers and agricultural workers, for packers, distributors and retailers of food. We pray for all engaged in research to safeguard crops against disease. Prosper the work of their hands and the searching of their minds, for the welfare of all .

Lord of all wisdom:

hear our prayer.

We pray for governments and aid agencies, and all who work in the areas of the world where there is disaster, drought and starvation. Let them be supported and protected in their work.

Touch our hearts and the hearts of all who live in comfortable plenty, and make us wise stewards of your gifts. Lord of all justice:

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are ill, in hospital, in nursing homes or at home; those we know and those we may never know. We pray for all who care for them. Give skill, empathy and understanding to all who work for the well-being of others. Lord of all compassion:

hear our prayer.

We remember those who have died, we entrust them to your eternal love in the hope of resurrection to new life. Lord of all peace:

hear our prayer.

God our Creator, we ask that your Spirit will work in us so that others may receive a rich harvest of love and joy and peace. Fulfil your wise and loving purpose in us that your glory may be revealed and the whole earth give praise to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

For people, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together. For nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad.

Edwin Way Teale

Nature herself does not distinguish between what seed it receives. It grows whatever seed is planted; this is the way life works. Be mindful of the seeds you plant today, as they will become the crop you harvest tomorrow. *Mary Morrissey*

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