

September Prayers

Harvest Hymn – by Richard Bowers (to the tune of “Love Divine”)

God of harvest, God of sharing,
God who meets us in our need.
Fill us with a love of caring,
Save us from our hidden greed.
Jesus gave away his glory
Help your people do the same,
Help your people live his story,
Sharing riches in his name.

God of harvest, God of sharing,
Gave a world for all to share.
Yet we burn our planet’s riches,
For our comfort, without a care.
Living lives that sicken creation,
Farms turned into barren land,
Hungry ones, made voiceless, helpless,
Bread is taken from their hand.

God of harvest, God of sharing,
Gave good news for us to share.
Gives, and helps us give to others,
Love and friendship, time and care.
By your Spirit, by our living,
Help us all your truth proclaim,
In our hearing, in our helping,
Offer love in Jesus’ name.

Harvest Time

Lord of the harvest, we praise you for the world you have created, the food that sustains us, the relationships that nourish us, the love that feeds us.

Lord of the harvest, may the earth be fruitful for all. May its resources be shared fairly, that the horrors of extreme hunger and poverty might come to an end. Where wealthy and powerful nations invest little in justice for the oppressed, may justice take root and blossom into joy for all who share this earth.

Lord of the harvest, may the leaders of this world also become good stewards of the earth. Where greed and selfishness wreck our environment, where the lust for power and the spirit of empire destroy precious lives, bring a hunger and thirst for righteousness, and cultivate a spirit of compassion for others.

Lord of the harvest, may your church be fruitful. May your people be active in seeking justice, to devote heart and mind and possessions to establish your ways on earth. May all people see from the actions of your church, that Jesus is alive. Send us into the world as labourers who, with word and action, will be a living message of good news to all your creation.

Pride and Humility

God of grace, who opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble, we pray for our world, in need of your grace but reluctant to receive it.

We pray for those who have failed. As people, as professionals, in relationships and at work. We pray for all who carry the wounds of failure and humiliation. Lord, oppose the proud, give grace to the humble.

We pray for the victims of bullies, in the playground and in the shanty town, in the workplace and in the refugee camp. Lord, oppose the proud, give grace to the humble.

We pray for politicians whose ends can never justify their means. For those so intent on staying in power, on winning votes, and pleasing the crowds, that any thought of fighting for justice is beyond all thought and desire. Lord, oppose the proud, give grace to the humble.

We pray for ourselves, wanting to be humble, but closing our ears to those who bring us discomfort. Refusing to hear those who bring your challenge for us to change our minds, to change our habits, to change our lives. Teach us to listen, encourage us to be transformed by your living presence. Lord, oppose us when we are proud, grant us your grace when we are humbled.

Joy

Lord God, author of all life and of each life, we praise you for this sacred world in which you have called us be your people.

We thank you for the love we have known, the comfort we have enjoyed, the happiness we have tasted. And we pray now for those who feel themselves without love, comfort or happiness.

For those whose relationships have made them less human, who find it hard to trust and to be trustworthy. For those who have been abused or neglected... May they know the reality of your loving-presence, may your Holy Spirit flood into their lives to bring healing. Make us willing to be your means of answering our prayer.

For those who go days without food, for those who have fled their homes, for those without future and without hope. Bring justice and peace, and a comfort that can come only from you. But make us willing to be your means of answering our prayer.

For your church, when it has lost its joy. When joy is battered by hardship, persecution or grief ... When joy is mistaken for entertainment, fake smiles or superficial thrills. Bring the gift of joy, that your church on earth might be a colony of heaven.