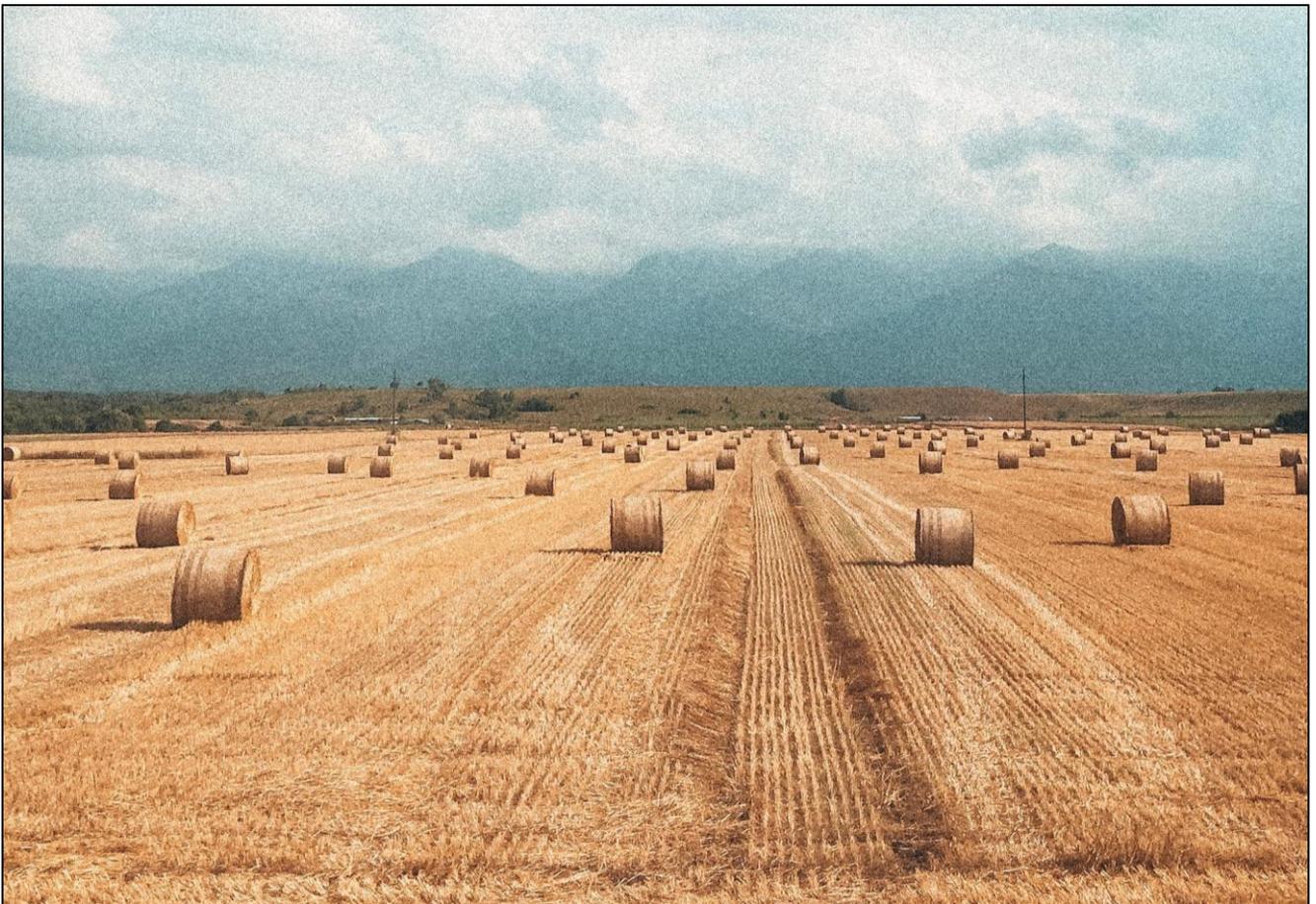


## Harvest

Prayers and worship resources on the theme of 'Harvest' – updated September 2013



Creator God,  
We thank you today  
for the splendour and beauty of creation;  
for the ordered succession of seasons;  
for your love which made the world.  
We thank you for the good and fertile earth;  
for the fruits of the earth in their seasons;  
for the life that sustains our life;  
for the food that we daily enjoy.  
We thank you for those whose labour supplies our physical needs;  
for those who harvest our crops, those who transport them,  
those who process them, those who sell them.

Loving God,  
we thank you for the gift of yourself  
in Jesus, our Saviour and Lord;  
for his living, dying, and rising again  
in your loving redemption of the world.

Life-giving God,  
we thank you for your Holy Spirit, the giver of life;  
for the Church, a foretaste of your new creation,  
and for our privilege in being part of it.

Redeeming God,  
we thank you for your mighty acts  
in creating and saving your world.  
We offer ourselves to you in gratitude,  
that we may serve you  
and our fellow men and women  
joyfully and faithfully throughout our lives;  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Loving Lord, we pray for those who have no harvest to celebrate,  
no crops to gather, or labour to pursue.  
We pray for those who live on land that is hard to farm,  
scratching out a living in a hostile soil,  
amidst rocky ground and scorching earth.  
We pray for those who scratch no living from the earth,  
where the whole world seems to squeeze the life from their bodies.  
We pray for those who have left their homes,  
driven by war or want,  
to become refugees, aliens dependent on others.  
We pray for those without work:  
women and men made redundant by changing needs,  
children living off their wits in the streets of sprawling cities.  
We pray for those with no energy for praise,  
whose bread is bitterness and whose water is tears.

We confess our part in the sin of the world  
and pray that you might grant us a vision of justice as well as charity  
and strengthen our readiness to change as well as to help;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **For all your good gifts - Harvest Blessing**

For all your good gifts  
safely harvested and gathered in  
gluts of fruits and vegetables  
abundance overflowing  
for giving away and cooking and sharing  
**May we share your harvest as a blessing to others.**

For all your good gifts  
stored for the cold, harsh winter months ahead  
where the ground lies dormant  
and nature takes her rest  
for freezing and preserving and jam making  
**May we share of your abundance as a blessing to others.**

For all your good gifts  
for planting and nurturing and harvesting  
in different habitats and climates around the world  
For stories of sowers and swords turned to hoes  
For bread broken and wine shared  
**May we share of your story and our stories as a blessing to others.**

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### **Harvest Blessing**

May the blessing of the God who cycles the seasons and swells the grain  
Go with us.  
May the blessing of the Son who harvests and kneads and breaks the bread  
Go with us.  
May the blessing of the Spirit who challenges us to a just sharing of earth's harvest  
Go with us  
Now and into the week ahead.

*© Clare McBeath and Tim Presswood, 2009*

**Harvest Hymn** To the tune of 'Love divine, all loves excelling'.

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 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.

*(© Richard Bowers, Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church)*

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The Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) is changing its legal status from a charitable unincorporated association to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). From 1 January 2020, BUGB will operate as a CIO with registered charity number 1181392.

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