

HARVEST



Celebrating God's Goodness 'Deepening our Roots'

Notice for Harvest Donations

As you know, every year we take up an additional collection for harvest, the total of which is split between the corps and the territory. This year there are no harvest envelopes, so could I ask that you please put your donations in with your usual giving and include a note to make clear what amount is for harvest, what amount is usual giving and what amount is for papers.

This will help us a great deal - Thank you!

Father Creator

We come before you today giving thanks for your provision and goodness to us at this harvest time. We are grateful for your love that not only provides for our needs but also made a way for us to know you through Jesus Christ.

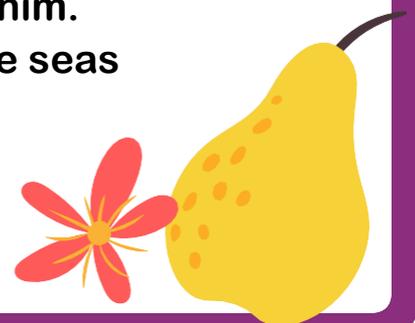
It is easy in difficult days to lose focus on what you have given us. We pray that today as we look to your creation, a wonderful gift, that we will learn to be thankful for our world. We thank you that you are a good father who has given us everything we need.

Forgive us for doubting you, for worrying and for trying so hard to work everything out on our own. Help us to trust you more, help us in our unbelief. Help us to help others and to share and care as you taught us, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Psalm 24:1-2

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it
The world and all its people belong to him.
For he laid the earth's foundations on the seas
and built it on ocean depths.



For a moment, no matter the size, reflect on the beauty of the local gardens you can see from your window and draw parallels to other gardens in the Bible:

- Eden – God’s plan of perfection and his desire to bless us.
- Gethsemane – Jesus preparing to go to the cross for our sins
- Paradise (a Persian term which can be translated as ‘Royal Garden’) – where we see a picture of Heaven.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3ZVL0LMRMw>

SB: 66

**THIS IS MY FATHER'S WORLD,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings and round
me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world,
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees,
of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their maker's praise.**

**This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear
Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.**

**This is my Father's world;
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft
so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world
The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and Heaven be one.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Thank you, God, for the wonderful world you made.

Thank you for all people of the world.

Thank you for all animals and living creatures.

Thank you for all the plants and things we can eat.

Help us, Lord, to look after your world and everything in it.

Help us to share the things we have and to think about others who do not have as much as we do. And bless us and our families with your love, today and always.

Amen.

Psalm 24:3-6

**Who may climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in this Holy place?
Only those whose hands and hearts are pure,
who do not worship idols and never tell lies.
They will receive the Lord’s blessing and have
right relationship with God their Saviour.
Such people may seek you and worship in your presence,
O God of Jacob**

Ephesians 3:14-19: *When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father,¹⁵ the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.*

In his prayer, Paul kneeling before God the father, recognizing the glorious unlimited resources found in Christ, prays that the spiritual roots of the church would be deepened and strengthened through the Spirit of Jesus. Deeper roots into God's love leads to greater love, strength and hope. Deeper roots help us harvest the fruits of the spirit (Gal 5:22-23) in our lives, so that others may benefit and be blessed by God through us.

Let's Consider Deepening Our Spiritual Roots:

The more we nourish our spirits in prayer, the deeper our roots in Christ will go.

(Seeing, listening, tasting, touching, smelling - God has gifted us all our senses, so why not use them all as a way to pray!)

The more we feed our hearts on God's word, the more its influence will change us.

(Take a verse or short passage and read several times throughout the day. Put it up on the fridge or cupboard so you see it regularly)

The deeper our roots go, the more the fruit of the Holy Spirit's presence within will be noticeable. (How are you noticing the spiritual fruits of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, growing in your own life?)

The deeper our roots can go, the greater the life of Jesus within us becomes.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ph-t8P2r_I

SB: 294

**BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love
And do what Thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will
To do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.**

Jesus says 'I have come to bring life and life in all its fullness' Jn 10:10. If through our worship, songs and prayers we ask God, who created the earth and everything in it, to bless us with more of the life of his Spirit within, then it follows that we would seek to be a blessing to others.

- How can we live this in a practical way?
- How can we care for this world that has been gifted to us?
- How can we have a rich harvest of the Spirit's work in our thoughts, words and deeds?

As our spiritual roots deepen, so we are better able to see and take delight in the goodness of God, in how God sees the world and how we might respond.

SB:3

*ALL things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings:

The purple headed mountain,
The river running by,

The sunset, and the morning
That brightens up the sky:

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one:

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well:

Father God,

**Thank you for all you have created: the plants, the animals,
the skies and the seas.**

Thank you that everything you created is bright and beautiful.

Please help us to take better care of your creation.

Help us to make a difference in the world we live in.

We give you praise for all your blessings.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen