

St Martin's Church, North Nibley

Sunday 10th October 2021

A Service of the Word for Harvest

Gathering as the People of God

Welcome in the name of Christ!
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.
O Lord, open our lips and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hymn 21: All things bright and beautiful

Preparing for the Word

We worship with Christians near and far, living and departed, old and young.
God's word is for all of us.
May it be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

You may like to open a Bible and light a candle near it

The Collect

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land, the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A Reading from the Old Testament: Joel 2: 21 - 27

21

"Fields, don't be afraid,
but be joyful and glad
because of all the Lord has done for you.

22

Animals, don't be afraid.
The pastures are green;
the trees bear their fruit,
and there are plenty of figs and grapes.

23

"Be glad, people of Zion,
rejoice at what the Lord your God has done for you.
He has given you the right amount of autumn rain;^[a]
he has poured down the winter rain for you
and the spring rain as before.

24

The threshing places will be full of grain;
the pits beside the presses will overflow with wine and olive oil.

25

I will give you back what you lost
in the years when swarms of locusts ate your crops.
It was I who sent this army against you.

26

Now you will have plenty to eat, and be satisfied.
You will praise the Lord your God,

who has done wonderful things for you.
My people will never be despised again.

27

Then, Israel, you will know that I am among you
and that I, the Lord, am your God
and there is no other.
My people will never be despised again.

The Gospel: Matthew 6: 25 - 33

25 “This is why I tell you: do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all, isn't life worth more than food? And isn't the body worth more than clothes? **26** Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds?

27 Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it?

28 “And why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves. **29** But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers. **30** It is God who clothes the wild grass—grass that is here today and gone tomorrow, burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you? What little faith you have!

31 “So do not start worrying: ‘Where will my food come from? or my drink? or my clothes?’

32 (These are the things the pagans are always concerned about.) Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. **33** Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things.

Sermon

Hymn 137: For the beauty of the earth

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Praying for Ourselves

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor,
and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of the world.

We confess to you
our lack of care for the world you have given us.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you
our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you
our failure to protect resources for others.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The priest declares God's forgiveness

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen

Praying for Others

The prayers of intercession are followed by:

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Hymn 524: To thee, O Lord, our songs we raise

Going out to serve the Lord

Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Blessing

May God our Creator,
who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air,
bestow on you his care
and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
And the blessing of God Almighty -
Father, Son and Holy Spirit -
be with you and all whom you love
this day and remain with you always.
Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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