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**WELCOME TO MOUNT HERMON**

Sunday 11th October 2020

**Ploughed and SCATTERED BUT UNITED**

To the saints in [Addingham], the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1 v 1-2

**Message from David**

Harvest festival is a time for thanking God for the provision of food. Harvest was instituted by God; we read in Genesis 8 “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease”. Yet the celebration of a Harvest Festival in church is a comparatively recent initiative started about 150 years ago. There were Harvest celebrations going back long before then but these were pagan and superstitious in nature, a chance for celebration and riotous excess. Most of us are no-longer tied to the land and the importance of bringing in the harvest is not so obviously real to us. Nor is the harvest set at a particular time any more, you can for instance buy strawberries in the supermarket 52 weeks of the year. Yet the church celebrates harvest each year on a Sunday close to the feast of St. Michael, or Michaelmas as it is known, which is the 29th of September each year.

In God's commission to Adam he was given the job of looking after the planet, a responsibility that we should take seriously ourselves. Did you know that parts of the Amazon rain forest are being destroyed to produce feed for cattle, or that in this country we throw away £700 million of food every year? Man thinks he is so clever and that we are in control of the planet and food production. Yet in recent years we have seen floods and droughts and wild fires, and even the transmission of disease from animals to humans may be linked to our mismanagement of the planet. I cannot tell you what to do individually to be more responsible in our use of food or other natural resources, but we should be aware of what is happening so that we can make informed decisions. So whilst we may not personally “plough the fields and scatter” let us be wise in our use of God's bountiful provision and thank Him for it.

Food has been in the news this week. The Nobel peace prize 2020 has been awarded to a charity trying to stop the use of food as a weapon of war. Why does a young man in Afghanistan join the Taliban? Not necessarily because he agrees with their extreme religious views, it can simply be that the alternative is for him and his family starve. We can so take for granted what other people literally have to fight for.

**Oh God we are so thankful for Your bountiful provision.**

**Further Bible verses for reflection**

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| Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.  But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.” John 6.35-40   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Mission Praise**  We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand; he sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain, the breezes and the sunshine and soft refreshing rain. All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.  He only is the maker of all things near and far; he paints the wayside flower, he lights the evening star; the wind and waves obey him, by him the birds are fed; much more to us his children, he gives our daily bread. All good gifts...  We thank you, then, O Father, for all things bright and good, the seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food: accept the gifts we offer for all your love imparts; and that which you most welcome, our humble, thankful hearts. All good gifts...  Having been given your feedback on meeting at the chapel I intend that we will now have fortnightly services at the chapel for the foreseeable future, and on alternate weeks have online communion. The next service will be on 25th October . |  | **Mission Praise**  **Come, ye thankful people, come,**  **raise the song of harvest home;**  **all is safely gathered in,**  **ere the winter storms begin.**  **God our Maker doth provide**  **for our wants to be supplied;**  **come to God's own temple, come,**  **raise the song of harvest home.**    **All the world is God's own field,**  **fruit as praise to God we yield;**  **wheat and tares together sown**  **are to joy or sorrow grown;**  **first the blade and then the ear,**  **then the full corn shall appear;**  **Lord of harvest, grant that we**  **wholesome grain and pure may be.**  **For the Lord our God shall come,**  **and shall take the harvest home;**  **from the field shall in that day**  **all offenses purge away,**  **giving angels charge at last**  **in the fire the tares to cast;**  **but the fruitful ears to store**  **in the garner evermore.**  **Even so, Lord, quickly come,**  **bring thy final harvest home;**  **gather thou thy people in,**  **free from sorrow, free from sin,**  **there, forever purified,**  **in thy presence to abide;**  **come, with all thine angels, come,**  **raise the glorious harvest home.** | |

Our harvest gifts are going to Caring for Life. If you are not able to attend in person on the 11th but would like to support the charity with a gift please let me know.

**Our vision: to help people find their way back to God**