

## SUNDAY DEVOTIONS FOR 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 – HARVEST SERVICE

If you wish to join in with our telephone worship, please call **0333 011 0616**, then enter the access code, **286 7552** followed by # (not £ as the lady says!). You will be asked to say your name and enter # and, in a moment or two you will be connected. Please dial in before 11am.

1. **Call:** God cares for the earth and makes it fruitful. He crowns the year with His good gifts.  
Psalm 65:9&11
2. **Prayer:** God of harvest time we gather together today as Your people and Your church to celebrate and to give thanks for the harvest we have been fortunate enough to share in. Enable us to be fruitful in our worship and to praise You with joyful hearts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen**
3. **Reading:** Deuteronomy 8: 1-10
4. **Prayer:** (Adoration) Almighty God, our loving Heavenly Father, you breathed life into the universe, all things come from you. By your power the sun gives warmth and the earth yields its harvest of resources. By your power all life is born and your Spirit inspires us to create beauty, and seek truth and justice in your world. As we worship today, inspire our hearts and minds, that we might appreciate your goodness and dedicate our lives to your service.
5. **Reading:** Psalm 67
6. **Prayer:** (Confession) Father God, creator of all that there is. We gather today and thank you at harvest time, for the world in which we live. We praise you for all the wonders of creation that we can enjoy. Lord hear our prayer We know that you have given to humanity all that is necessary for our needs. Forgive us when we think only of ourselves, when our greed and the exploitation of our economies deprives others. As we consume the world's produce and enjoy the benefits of science and technology, help us to be mindful of those who do not have food, water or medicine. Lord hear our prayer Forgive us when we think that you love us more than people who live in other parts of the world. Help us to understand that you give life to all people and love equally all you have made. Lord hear our prayer Lord Jesus you healed the sick and fed the hungry, you taught men, women and children. Help us to continue your work across the earth and to make poverty history. May we work to ensure that all are fed, cared for and come to know the truth of your love.
7. **Reading:** Acts 14: 13-17
8. **Prayer:** (Thanksgiving) We pray today for farmers and farm-workers, especially those we know in our communities. We pray for them in the heat of summer and in the drenches of the wet and cold of winter, as they tend their stock daily and cultivate their fields, as they manage the hedges, woodland and waterways. We pray for safety in a hazardous industry, encouragement for the solitary, and a fair price for their products. We pray for seasonable weather, good growth and good yields, so that there may be abundant harvests to feed hungry people. For safe work practices and healthy habits for all farmers, so that people and communities may flourish and be strong, For health and happiness in the home life of all farmers, and for families to work together with love, respect and harmony, For wise financial planning, land care and asset management, so that farmers may be confident about the future of their farms, for good communication between country and town, so that we may understand each other's needs and encourage one another. We pray for this country to increase its self-sufficiency in food that people and supermarket-buyers will support local growers. We pray for all those who provide seasonal labour at harvest time, for those who clean and process our food – often in tough conditions, for those who transport, inspect and sell our food and for all who cook it for us. We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the harvest, **Amen**
9. **Reading:** John 6: 24-35
10. **Prayer: (Your turn now.)** Pray for those things that come to you from the bible readings. Pray for the world situation, your own community and family and friends. Pray for those that are suffering and those that work tirelessly to help others. Pray for our governments and leaders. Pray for your church and fellowships. Remember those that are unwell.
11. **Lord's Prayer.**
12. **Closing Prayer:** May God who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air, who leads the lambs to their pasture and the deer to still waters, who multiplied the loaves and fish and changed water into wine, lead us, feed us, multiply us, and change us to reflect the glory of our Creator now and through all eternity. **Amen**
13. **Grace:** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen