

Reflection: Harvest Festival Matthew 6:25-33

Harvest Festival has always been an event of bringing lots of lovely fresh produce into the church. Living in the country as a child the church was beautifully decorated with produce and flowers as offerings in thanks for the harvest. The congregation used to swell with farmers attending who rarely darkened the doors of the church during the rest of the year. We sang the harvest hymns and thanked God for his generosity to us. It was all very jolly and rural. The food was afterwards distributed to the elderly and poor of the village.

Nowadays we see canned food and packeted food as well as fresh produce. This is especially the case in more urban settings like ours here, where there is not much fresh produce grown.

We now hear that Foodbanks are as busy and in demand as ever with more and more people struggling to survive financially. This food that is collected can be sent to the Foodbank and distributed to those in need.

In the gospel Jesus tells us not to worry about where our food will come from; God our Father will provide for our needs. None of us are starving and we have plentiful food at our disposal. We thank God for that. Because of that we need to be sharing it with those who are less fortunate through the Foodbank, and indeed we need to support those parts of the world where there is real famine, be it due to war or climate change or natural disaster.

Phil Baker



NEXT SUNDAY 20.10.2024 Trinity 21
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: NT Isaiah 53: 4-12
OT Hebrews 5: 1-10
GOSPEL Mark 10: 35-45



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St Thomas, Exeter

13th October 2024

Harvest Festival

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers.

101 Come, ye faithful people, come
138 For the fruits of his creation
534 We plough the fields and scatter

Tuesday 15th October

7.30pm House Group at Helen's house.
St Paul's ministry to the Thessalonians.

Wednesday 16th October

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 17th October

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots
No Knit & Natter

Friday 18th October

9.30am Morning Prayer
10am Staff Meeting



Collect

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Joel 2: 21-27

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

1 Timothy 6: 6-10

There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

Matthew 6: 25-33

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'

Post Communion

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

TALKWORKS can help! If you are feeling stressed, anxious, are experiencing ongoing low mood, or are having difficulty sleeping,

NHS TALKWORKS is a free, confidential, talking therapies service helping you to feel better and

giving you the tools and techniques to improve your mental well-being.
0300 555 3344 Give us a call and see how we can support you. www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk

The House Group meets fortnightly in someone's house to talk about our faith, other Christian churches, other faiths, about the Bible and anything else! It is a friendly group and people are always welcome to see if it's for them. Please speak to Ian, Helen or Mic if you would like to come and find out more.

Northcott Theatre Friday 18th October to Wednesday 23rd October (local discount on Friday) *The Commotion*. More on the Prayer Book Rebellion of 1549 following our successful talk by Prof Mark Stoye. Box office phone no 01392 726363

Macmillan Cancer Support. You will be pleased to know that £220 was raised between the Tots group and the Church refreshments.

Harvest Festival 13th October. Bring & Share lunch. Also a collection of produce for Food Bank.

Knit & Natter With many regrets, because of a family funeral, there will be no meeting on Thursday 17th October. Jenny Tuckett.

There will be an Extraordinary Annual Parochial Church meeting on **Sunday 20th October** to confirm the number on the Electoral Roll for 2023 and the presentation of the Annual Accounts.

