



PRAYER & WORSHIP IDEAS

Welcome to the Harvest prayer and worship ideas. This collection of ideas will give you a range of options to engage with Harvest in a fun and creative way.

Please browse through the document, or click the links below to jump straight to the section you need:

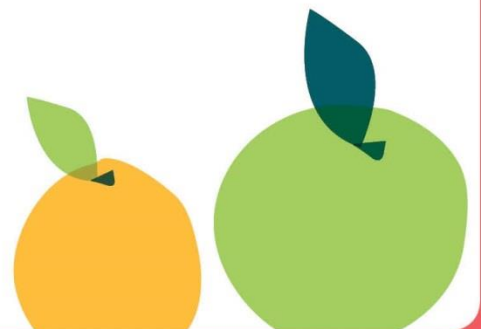
PRAYERS

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PRAYERS

Written Prayers

A Prayer of Thanks (1)

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.

A Prayer of Thanks (2)

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.

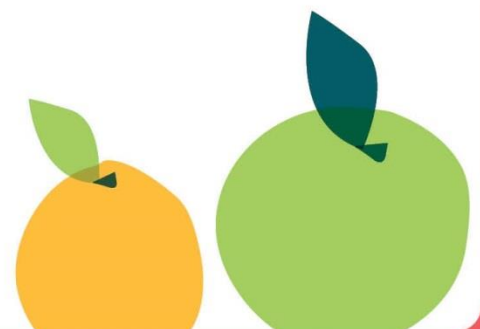
Help us, Lord, to look after your world and everything in it.

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.

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A Harvest Prayer

Lord, you tell us that the harvest is plentiful.

When we hear those words, we pray that, rather than being overwhelmed by the challenge of evangelism, we will be encouraged that you have placed us in the harvest field, in our small corner, equipped with your Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us.

Father, in our everyday lives may we be bright stars shining.

May we reflect your glory.

May we be agents of transformation in the places where we go.

May we play our part in discipling those we know, and those we will come to know, so that they continue to be transformed in the way that you are transforming each one of us.

We make our prayer in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

A Prayer of Repentance

May the God of grace, who loves all that he has made and in Christ welcomes home all who come to him, heal our brokenness, forgive our sins and return us to a life of justice, mercy and simplicity, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Benediction

God, the source of all around us, earth and seas, and stars above,

Grant us grace that we may honour all you give in perfect love.

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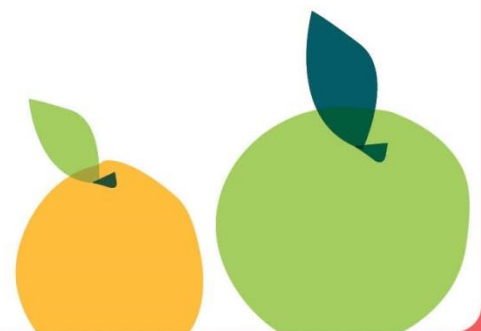




Harvest Prayer points

- Pray that people may know Jesus themselves, be filled with his Spirit, be set free from past sin and failure, be strong and courageous.
- Pray for people in their own mission fields – workplaces, schools etc. Maybe in twos or threes if people in your setting are comfortable with that.
- Ask one another over coffee how you can pray for each other and support each other.
- Pray for a greater sense of urgency in mission, both individually and corporately. [Link here](#) to the 'I'll fight' themes.
- Ask the Lord to send more workers into his harvest – to raise up and empower effective, whole-life, missionary disciples.

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Responsive Prayers

To him be the glory for ever!

Based on Romans 11:36 and Acts 2:42-47

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for this fellowship of believers.

All: To him be the glory for ever!

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for the teaching we receive, the friendship we share, the things you provide for us and the prayers you answer for us.

All: To him be the glory for ever!

Leader: We thank you, Lord, that you work wonders amongst us and unite us in love.

All: To him be the glory for ever!

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for the generosity and patience you inspire in us as we meet together to worship you.

All: To him be the glory for ever!

Leader: We thank you, Lord, that this is not confined to these four walls but overflows into our homes, our work and the wider world.

All: To him be the glory for ever!

Leader: We thank you, Lord, that people are attracted to you as we focus on you.

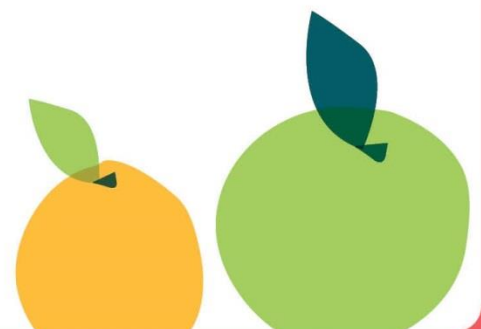
All: To him be the glory for ever!

Leader: We thank you, Lord, because you sent Jesus to be the saviour of all.

All: To him be the glory for ever!

Amen.

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A Harvest Liturgy

1: At this Harvest time let us give thanks to God for his goodness and loving kindness to us.

2: Let us also remember those in our community and in our world who are not so fortunate.

All: We thank you, God, for all we have, and we pray for those in need.

1: Let us thank God for the products of Harvest – for grain, fruit and vegetables, for the produce of land and sea.

2: Let us not forget those in countries ravaged by famine, drought or warfare.

All: We thank you, God, for all we have, and we pray for those in need

1: Let us thank God for the beauty of the natural world – flowers, trees, rivers, valleys and mountains.

2: Let us not forget the homeless people in our local community, as well as those who live in poverty around our global community.

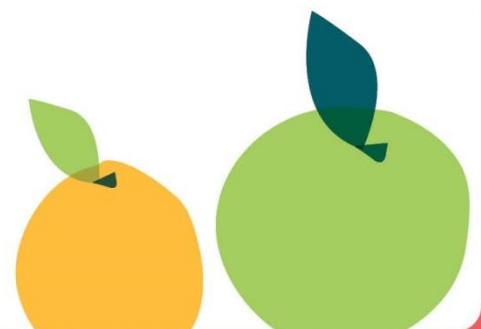
All: We thank you, God, for all we have, and we pray for those in need.

1: Let us thank God for the technology which preserves our food so that we may enjoy it all year round.

2: Let us not forget those who work in our local community helping those who don't have enough food.

All: We thank you, God, for all we have, and we pray for those in need.

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1: Let us thank God that our houses, schools and offices are warm and well lit.

2: Let us not forget those who have no electricity, gas or firewood. Particularly we remember ordinary families caught up in conflict or who are displaced as winter approaches.

All: We thank you, God, for all we have, and we pray for those in need.

1: Let us thank God that we have money to buy things we need.

2: Let us not forget those who have no money and are dependent for life on the giving of others.

All: We thank you, God, for all we have, and we pray for those in need.

1: Let us thank God that we have clean running water from a tap.

2: Let us not forget those people from poorer countries who walk for miles to collect the water needed in their homes.

All: We thank you, God, for all we have, and we pray for those in need.

1 & 2: Father, Creator of the whole world, hear our prayers, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Proclaim him Lord

**All quotations from the New Living Translation*

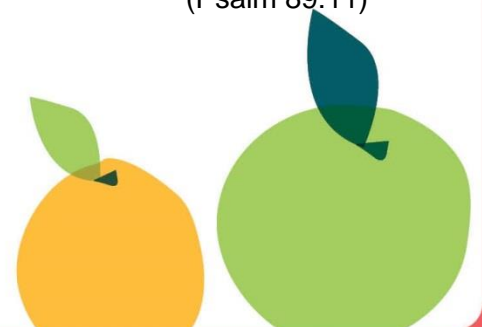
Leader: 'The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.'
(Psalm 24:1)

All: We proclaim you Lord of our lives. We praise you for your faithfulness.

Leader: 'The heavens are yours, and the earth is yours; Everything in the world is yours – you created it all.'

(Psalm 89:11)

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All: Father God, we worship and
adore you and come before
you as your people.
You have given us so much.
Teach us how to be good
stewards of all we have.

Leader: 'Share your food with the
hungry, and give shelter to the
homeless. Give clothes to
those who need them, and do
not hide from relatives who
need your help. Then your
salvation will come like the
dawn, and your wounds will
quickly heal. Your godliness
will lead you forward, and the
glory of the Lord will protect
you from behind.'
(Isaiah 58:7–8)

All: Father, your word is clear. May
we rely on your promised
strength to fulfil all that you
want us to do in your name.
Help us not to back away from
showing your love.

Leader: 'I tell you the truth, when you
did it to one of the least of

these my brothers and sisters,
you were doing it to me!'
(Matthew 25:40)

All: Father God, your word
challenges us. Forgive us for
the times when we are slow to
see you in everything. Help us
to realise that it is for you we
live.

Leader: 'All the believers were united in
heart and mind. And they felt
that what they owned was not
their own, so they shared
everything they had. The
apostles testified powerfully to
the resurrection of the Lord
Jesus, and God's great
blessing was upon them all.
There were no needy people
among them, because those
who owned land or houses
would sell them and bring the
money to the apostles to give
to those in need.'
(Acts 4:32–35).

All: Help us to be creative in how
we share our resources. We

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ask that we would see all opportunities as given by you. Help us not to underestimate all that you can do with all that we give to you. Amen.

I give you my all

***'Lord of creation' – SASB 380**

Bible references Psalm 95 NIV

Sing: *Lord of creation,
to you be all praise;
Most mighty your working,
most wondrous your ways;
Your glory and might
are beyond us to tell,
And yet in the heart
of the humble you dwell.*

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

All: For the Lord is the great God,
the great King above all gods.

Women: In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.

Men: The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

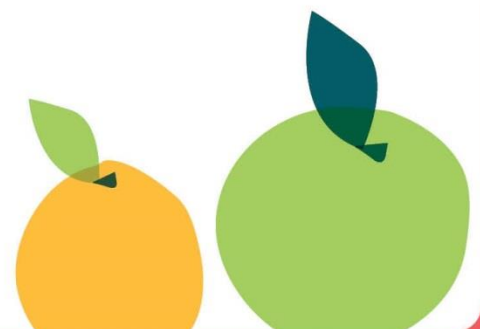
Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

All: for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.
(Psalm 95:1–7)

Sing: *Lord of all power,
I give you my will,
In joyful obedience
your tasks to fulfil.
Your bondage is freedom,
your service is song,
And, held in your keeping,
my weakness is strong.*

Leader: Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to

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God – this is your true and proper act of worship.
Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

(Romans 12:1-2)

Sing: *Lord of all wisdom,
I give you my mind,
Rich truth that surpasses
man's knowledge to find.
What eye has not seen and
what ear has not heard
Is taught by your Spirit and
shines from your word.*

Leader: We declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

All: However, as it is written: 'What

no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' – the things that God has prepared for those who love him – these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

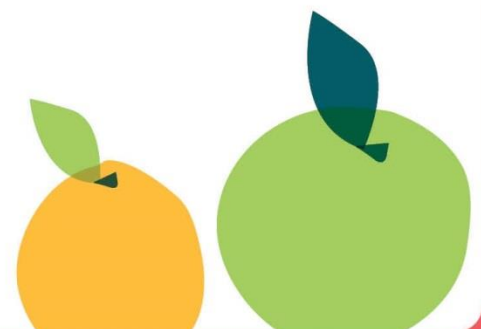
(1 Corinthians 2:7-10)

Leader: And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

(Philippians 1:9-11)

Sing: *Lord of all bounty,
I give you my heart;
I praise and adore you
for all you impart:
Your love to inspire me,
your counsel to guide,
Your presence to cheer me,
whatever betide.*

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Leader: Thanks be to you, our Lord
Jesus Christ, for all the
benefits which you have given
us, for all the pains and insults
which you have borne for us.

All: Most merciful Redeemer,
Friend and Brother, may we
know you more clearly,
love you more dearly, and
follow you more nearly, day by
day. Amen.

(Prayer of St Richard)

Sing: *Lord of all being,
I give you my all;
If e'er I disown you
I stumble and fall;
But sworn in glad service
your word to obey,
I walk in your freedom
to the end of the way.*

All: Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily
bread;

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into
temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom,
The power and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.

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A Responsive Prayer

Leader: For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

(Colossians 1:16-17 *NIV*)

Almighty, Creator God, you made all things and you hold the universe together.

All: You saw all that was made and it was very good.

Leader: When we look around us we see so many things that have gone wrong, so many things that break your heart.

All: We look at all that is made and ask you to help us make things very good once more.

Leader: Show us what we can do to set things right in the world. Teach us how to fight for justice, how to live for others, how to spend our time and money.

All: We agree to stand with you and live for you, to say: Things will be very good.

Leader: Giver of life, physical and eternal, we thank you for your purpose, your care and your provision.

All: We give back to you all that we have and all that we are, because your great love has shown us that you are VERY GOOD.

Amen.

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Creative Prayers

Prayer for creation

You will need:

- pieces of rubbish such as plastic bottles, crisp packets, cans, old newspapers, ripped plastic bags etc
- a big rubbish bin
- contemplative music

Spread the rubbish around the bin. As you play the contemplative music, ask people to pick up a piece of rubbish and put it in the bin. As they do so, suggest that they use these simple words as their prayer, or make their own:

Lord, help me not to rubbish your world in any way. Amen.

Praise poster

You will need:

- paper
- coloured pens
- display board

Read Psalm 103 and ask people to identify the words or phrases that describe God's goodness. Give people paper and pens and ask them to write down their chosen statement from the passage about who God is. Display all the phrases on a board under the caption 'We can praise God because...'. Use these words to guide a time of prayer.

Prayer paper chain

You will need:

- paper strips
- pens
- sticky tape

Distribute paper strips and encourage people to write a word/sentence of gratitude and celebration to God. Connect the strips with sticky tape to make a prayer paper chain that you can hang across your meeting room. If you have a small group you might want to give each person two or three strips of paper, or add to the chain week by week.

Prayer Beads

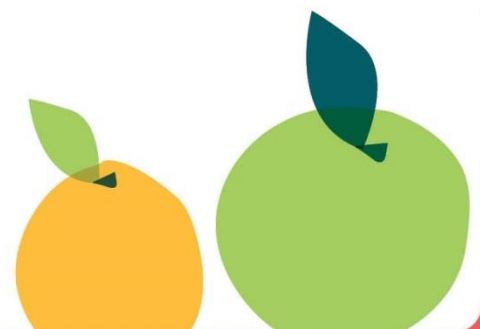
You will need:

- cord or strong thread
- assorted beads
- rings to make key chains

Ask each person to think about people they know who have not yet heard about Jesus, or who do not come to church. Choose a different bead to represent each person. Thread the beads on cord to make a bracelet, a necklace or a keychain.

Talk about how we can tell the people we know about Jesus and invite them along. Using the beads, say a prayer for them.

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Praying for my world

Ask different members of the congregation in advance if they will share a prayer from 'their world'. For example, ask a child to pray specifically for their school and friends, someone else to pray for their workplace, someone to pray for an activity that they are involved in at the corps, etc.

Summarise this prayer time by thanking God for all the different people, places and groups represented within the congregation. Thank God for the opportunities that this represents. Thank God for the funds that will be raised through the Harvest altar service for local mission, and pray for wisdom and guidance as to how best to use this financial offering.

Water

You will need:

- a glass of water to display, or if at all practically possible provide a glass for each person.

As you drink the water or look at the water displayed, pray for access to clean water and sanitation for everyone around the world. As you feel (or imagine) the refreshment of the cold water, pray that those who are working to address these issues may have an increased awareness of the refreshing power of the Holy Spirit

Prayer Template

Distribute copies of the following prayer template for people to use:

Father, I pray that today, as I go to* you will guide my thoughts and inspire my words and actions. I pray that I will be attentive to your promptings as I pray for*

Today, I ask for an opportunity to pray specifically for*/ (or) a person that I meet during the course of the day.

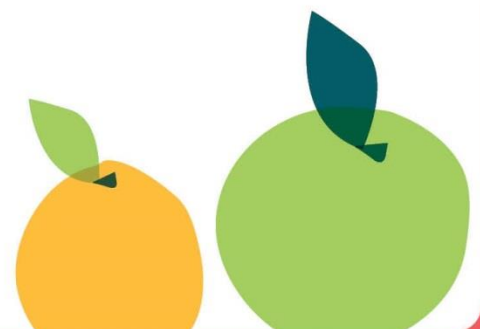
Lord, you have provided me with one blessing after another. Today, I pray that I will be a blessing to*/ to those I meet

Father, today I will see*. What should I pray for?
(Allow time for God to speak and guide your prayers)

Lord, today I pray that I will be especially sensitive to strangers that I meet. I ask that I will notice whether they seem anxious, or happy, or content, or lonely. Lord, guide my prayers for those I meet but do not know.

**Insert names or pray more generally*

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Prayer Map

You will need:

- a large map of the local area – or design your own
- lots of coloured dot stickers, but in two colours only

Give everyone the same coloured dot to stick on to a place on the map they go to regularly – school, work, nursery etc.

Pray for each person now represented on the map, that they will dare to share something about Jesus in the places where they go.

Then give everyone two or three more dots of a *different colour*, and ask them to think of the names of just two or three people that they could tell about Jesus this week. Ask them to try their best to do just that, and then invite them to stick these dots around the ones already on the map. You should end up with dots of two colours – representing each person and their harvest fields.

Pray for the people who might hear about Jesus this week, or who might get invited to the next messy church/event/service, that they will listen and respond.

Global community

You will need:

- Paper, pens and scissors for each person

Ask people to draw around their hand on a piece of paper and cut it out.

We are all part of a global community. We are required to reach out a hand to support and equip those who do not have the same material resources as we do. Pray for politicians and other decision-makers. Pray for those involved in the financial system. Ask God to show you a way that you can reach out, either by lobbying politicians or by direct action. Is there a lifestyle change you need to make – eg, commit to using Fairtrade goods where available?

Giving all we have

You will need:

- Card coin templates or circles cut out of brown paper
- Pens

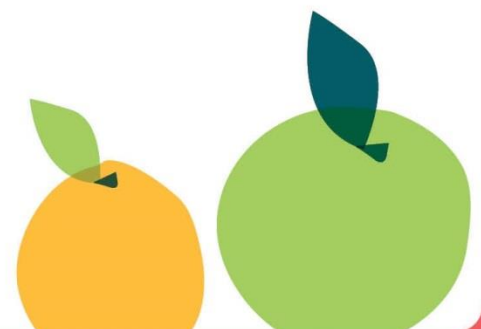
Write on one side of the coin something that you want to thank God for.

As Jesus watched the widow give her apparently small offering in the Temple (Mark 12:13–17) he teaches us that she gave all she had and there is so much value in her gift.

On the other side of the coin, write down something that you can do or give to make the world around you a brighter place.

Invite people to place their coin in a significant place (such as the Mercy Seat or altar table) to signify their commitment to God to do something beautiful with his help.

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WORSHIP

Worship Activities

What a Wonderful World

You will need:

- A5 paper for everyone
- the song 'What a Wonderful World' recorded by Louis Armstrong

Give everyone an A5 sheet of paper and explain that they have just over two minutes (Armstrong's recording of 'What a wonderful world' is a fraction short of two-and-a-half minutes) to create something with the piece of paper that resembles God's creation or Harvest. For example, tear out a circle to represent the moon, or the shape of a tree, snail, banana etc.

Once the song has finished, pick out two or three and show them to the congregation. *These shapes didn't just happen – you made them.* State that what they have made points to our Creator and remind us that God has given us such a fantastic world to enjoy and care for.

Psalm 8 praise

Read out Psalm 8 and ask people to think of images of the beauty of creation described by the psalmist, or display a few pictures that reflect the words being read.

Indescribable

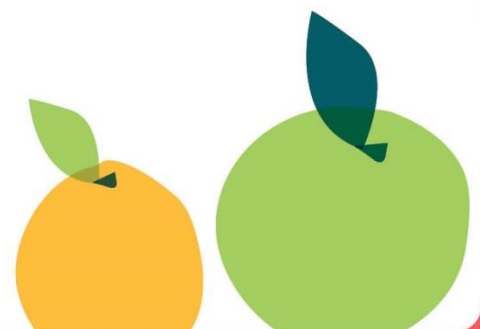
Play the song 'Indescribable' by Laura Story and Jesse Reeves, recorded by Chris Tomlin.

- Spend some time contemplating everything that God has created.
- Think about how fairly we share all of the resources and produce God has provided for us.
- Ask your group to consider how they would go about making things fair if they were in charge of the world. Ask them also to consider how they could start to make a change in their own lives to try and make things fairer.

prAise-Z

Ask the congregation to call out words that describe God, starting with 'a', then 'b', then 'c', and so on to 'z' (it gets tricky!).

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Play-dough praise!

You will need:

- Play-dough (enough for seven people)
- Cards printed each with one of the following words: world, flowers, Adam, Eve, snake, apple, leaves

This simple interactive reading provides an opportunity to explain how God's creation (our world) is spoilt by humanity's selfishness and greed. Before you read (perhaps during a song), ask for seven volunteers each to create a play-dough sculpture of one of the words printed on the cards. Whilst you read the following, get each person to hold up their sculpture as their word is mentioned in the story.

Here's our creative version of Genesis!

In seven days God created the world and he saw that it was good. In this beautiful world was the Garden of Eden, a place full of beauty and peace. There were beautiful flowers and plants as far as the eye could see.

Into the garden God placed Adam, the first man, and Eve, the first woman. In the centre of the garden, God placed a special tree and made it clear to Adam and Eve that the fruit of this tree was out of bounds. One day a snake appeared before Eve and tempted her to take a bite of the fruit of the special tree – a lovely juicy apple.

The apple gave Adam and Eve God's special knowledge of what was right and wrong, and they discovered that they could choose to do as they pleased rather than what pleased God. For the first time they felt ashamed and covered themselves in clothes made of leaves.

And so God's creation was spoilt by the wrong choices that Adam and Eve made, and the world has never been the same since.

Rap and Rhyme Time

This can be read as a rhyme or as a rap, with everyone saying the 'chorus' (in italics). Teach everyone these two lines first:

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help – I am sending you!'*

The world was created –
earth, sky and sea,
Plants and animals, birds and trees.
'Who will look after them? Let me see...'
Then God created Adam and Eve.

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help – I am sending you!'*

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As time went by, things began to
go wrong;
Instead of being nice, people didn't
get along.
There was war, there was hate;
things weren't fair;
They thought that God just didn't care.

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help – I am sending you!'*

Jesus was born to show us the way
To spread the news – that God
wanted to say
'I love you, I care, I really do,
But the ball's in your court – it's up to you.'

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help – I am sending you!'*

Jesus needed some help to spread
the word,
To make sure everybody heard;
So he sent out people – seventy-two –
And said: 'This is what you must do...'

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help – I am sending you!'*

'Go into the towns and tell them the news
That God's Son is here and he loves you;
He wants you to follow him every day;
To get into Heaven, it's the only way!'

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help – I am sending you!'*

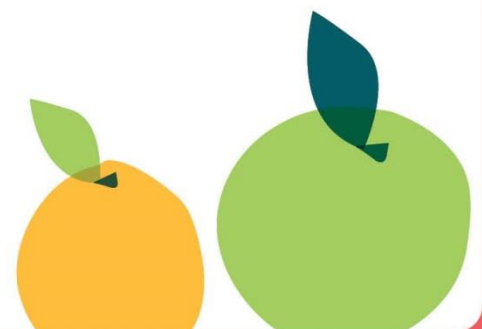
Today's the same – wherever **we** go,
There are lots of people who do not know
That Jesus loves them and really cares;
He still needs people who are willing to
share.

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help – I am sending you!'*
So whoever you are, wherever you go,
Tell those people who do not know
That Jesus loves them and really cares.
Can you do that? Do you dare?

*Jesus said: 'There's a lot to do,
I need some help – I am sending you!'*
I need some help – I am sending you!'

(By Major Georgina Symons)

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Songs and Music Suggestions

Congregational Songs

All creatures of our God and King
All Heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord
All things bright and beautiful
Beauty for brokenness
Come, ye thankful people, come
Fairest Lord Jesus
Far and near hear the call
For the beauty of the earth
Glory and honour to you we bring
God who touchest earth with beauty
Let us with a gladsome mind
Lord of all creation (God of Wonders)
Now thank we all our God
O Lord my God (How great thou art)
Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer
Praise him, you heavens
Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven
The Fruity Song (I am the apple of God's eye)
The splendour of the King (How great is our God)
The way it's gonna be
This is my Father's world
We plough the fields, and scatter
You are shaped for serving God

SASB 2
SASB 237
SASB 3
SASB 998
SASB 9
SASB 77
SASB 920
SASB 14
Doug Horley, SoF 1785
SASB 320
SASB 42
Marc Byrd, Steve Hindalong, SoF 2957
SASB 45
SASB 49
SASB 53
Magnify 52. SoF 1501
SASB 55
Jim Bailey, SoF 785
SASB 64
Doug Horley
SASB 66
SASB 70
Doug Horley

Singing Company Music

God cares for me (Joy Webb)
God's Horizon (William Hastings / David Catherwood)
I am me! (Leonard Ballantine)
Something beautiful for thee (Cheryl Yates / Richard Woodroffe)
Song of creation (Howard Davies)
Thank God for everything (Stephen Pearson / Andrew Wicker)
You are the one (Darren Bartlett)

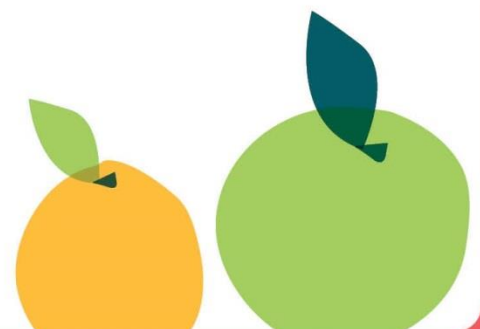
Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol 3
Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol 6

Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol 1
Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol15

Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol 7
Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol10

Sing to the Lord Children's Voices Vol 5

HARVEST





Young People's Band Music

Harvest Gifts (Andrew Blyth)
Harvest Praises (Andrew Blyth)
My God is so big (Nicholas Samuel)
Now thank we all our God (David Rowsell)

First Things First No 6
Unity Series No 205
First Things First No 9
Unity Series No 230

Songster Music

Beautiful Lord (Elizabeth Ashby / Andrew Maycock)
He is greater (Kai Andersson)
I will sing your praises (Psalm 9 adpt. Leonard Ballantine)
The Lord of harvest (John Samuel / Keith Manners)
There is a new song (arr. Trevor Davis)

Sing to the Lord Mixed Voices Vol 11 pt2

Sing to the Lord Mixed Voices Vol 15 pt3
Sing to the Lord Mixed Voices Vol 12 pt2

Sing to the Lord Mixed Voices Vol 5 pt2

Sing to the Lord Mixed Voices Vol 16 pt2

Senior Band

Harvest Celebration (Noel Jones)
My Father's World (Andrew Blyth)
Prayer of thanksgiving (William Himes)

General Series No 1849
General Series No 2086
Triumph Series No 1000

Recordings

All things bright and beautiful (John Rutter)

Even the mountains praise you (Claire Cloniger / Neal Joseph)
For the beauty of the earth (John Rutter)

In his time (Hanneke Jacobs)
Let the morning bring (Leonard Ballantine)

Look at the world (John Rutter)
Peace (Kenneth Downie)
Psalm 91 (Stuart Watson)
The majesty and glory of your name (Tom Fettke)

International Staff Songsters - *Let the morning bring*
Three Sopranos - *This is the life!*

International Staff Songsters - *Sing for joy*
Richard Phillips - *Inspirations*
International Staff Songsters - *Let the morning bring*
International Staff Songsters - *Freedom*
International Staff Band - *St Magnus*
International Staff Band - *So Glad!*
Govan Citadel Songsters - *Alive*

HARVEST

