

not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Act of Commitment (*please stand*)

Christ has no body now on earth but ours,
No hands but ours, No feet but ours.

Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion cares for the people of the world.

Ours are the feet with which Christ is to go about doing good. Ours are the hands through which Christ now brings a blessing

So I commit myself this day

To live each moment to the full,

To look with eyes of compassion,

And to act with kindness.

(Teresa of Avila & Jim Cotter adapted)

Hymn (*during which the collection will be taken*)

To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise
in hymns of adoration,
to thee bring sacrifice of praise
with shouts of exultation:
bright robes of gold the fields adorn,
the hills with joy are ringing,
the valleys stand so thick with corn
that even they are singing.

And now, on this our festal day,
thy bounteous hand confessing,
upon thine altar, Lord, we lay
the first-fruits of thy blessing:
by thee our souls are truly fed
with gifts of grace supernal;
thou who dost give us earthly bread,
give us the bread eternal.

We bear the burden of the day,
and often toil seems dreary;
but labour ends with sunset ray,
and rest comes for the weary:
may we, the angel-reaping o'er,
stand at the last accepted,
Christ's golden sheaves for evermore
to garners bright elected.

O blessed is that land of God,
where saints abide for ever;
where golden fields spread far and broad,
where flows the crystal river:
the strains of all its holy throng
with ours today are blending;
thrice blessed is that harvest song
which never hath an ending.

Blessing

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St. Mary's Banbury

Harvest of Volunteers' Thanksgiving

6pm, 8th October 2006

Introit Look at the world (Rutter)

Welcome (*The Rev'd Janet Chapman, Vicar*)

Hymn

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!

We ourselves are God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
grant, O harvest Lord, that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall purge away
all that doth offend, that day;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.

Then, thou Church triumphant, come,
raise the song of harvest-home;
all be safely gathered in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there for ever purified
in God's garner to abide:
come, ten thousand angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest-home!

Prayer (*The Rev'd Neil Eldridge, URC Minister*)

Almighty God, sustainer of daily life and work, and provider of all our needs, we give thanks for the gifts of the people of this community, especially those used in voluntary work. Help us in all we do, to honour your creation and to serve one another; we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer of Confession

We confess our sin, and the sins of our society, in the misuse of God's creation. God our Father, we are sorry for the times when we have used your gifts carelessly, and acted ungratefully.

Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**
We enjoy the fruits of the harvest, both the fruits of nature and the fruits of our creative gifts, but sometimes forget that you have given them to us.

Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**
We belong to a people who are full and satisfied, but ignore the cry of the hungry.

Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**
We are thoughtless, and do not care enough for the world you have made.

Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**
We store up goods for ourselves alone, as if there were no God and no heaven.

Father, in your mercy: **forgive us and help us.**

Absolution (*The Bishop of Dorchester*)

May the God of love bring you back to Himself, forgive you your sins, and assure you of His eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading 1 Samuel 3 v1-10

(*The Town Mayor of Banbury, Cllr. John Donaldson*)

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

The hazards of volunteering & supervising!

read by The Rev'd Louise Adey Huish, Non Stipendiary Curate (i.e. voluntary)

Hymn

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love along.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

New Testament reading : John 13 v1-17

(read by Jim Flux, Chairman Banbury Council for Voluntary Service)

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Anthem: For the beauty of the earth (Rutter)

Sermon: the Rt. Rev'd Colin Fletcher OBE, Bishop of Dorchester

Hymn

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
Fellow travellers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

Repeat first verse

Prayers

For the riches of your creation: **we thank you Lord**
For the gifts and skills you have bestowed on us:
we thank you Lord

For the volunteers who have helped us during our lives:
we thank you Lord

For the people of vision of the past and present who have established so many opportunities for volunteering: **we thank you Lord**

For all who supervise and organise volunteers; that their rotas be filled and their teams bond well.

Lord hear our prayer

For all responsible for the strategic decisions within the voluntary sector: that they may have wisdom & courage.

Lord hear our prayer

For all who benefit from volunteering, both recipients of services and the volunteers themselves; that all our lives are enriched. **Lord hear our prayer**

And we pray together as Jesus taught us:

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

"Give me a drink"

Read by Roger Verrall, Licensed Lay Minister – another volunteer.