**New Kilpatrick**

**Harvest**

**Psalm 146**

**3rd October 2021**

**Gathering**

Holy Harvest

That bears the creators gift

Of apple jelly skies

and butterscotch carpets

Such silent alleluias

Break free

In apple bites

And the zing of orange flesh

Yet while we sing of harvest

Safely gathered in

Our brothers and sisters

In maize fields, denuded

And landscapes, flooded

Starve.

May we pause the harvest celebration

And those of us who have enough

Reflect, before the feast,

On those, who are just like ourselves,

But by accident of birth

And an unjust world,

Have their humanity reduced

By an inequality this harvest never wanted

Holy Harvest

Sacred creation

May your groan of pain

Be heard in our harvest song

**Introduction**

It is our harvest festival… and thank you for the invitation to be part of yours… And we give thanks, and we find the words to shape this day… in thanksgiving for creation…

But in our Scottish climes… where rain is aplenty… and the sun always appreciated… where our shopping now comes to our door if we wish… where we can fuss over substitutions in our orders as if it was important… may we… humbly pause… and with the deepest humility… recognise how utterly privileged we are… in a world where most aren’t… even in our own communities… and NOT give just lip service to the injustice that is harvest… but commit today… to live differently… more faithfully with our planet and the relationships we have with each other and creation…

These sadly are not new sentiments… We’ve spoken like this for generations… With COP26 beginning at the end of this month… and the consequences of our living so clear… may we find in our faith stories… those values and truth that challenge us… call us… and change us… so that the harvest… one day… some day… will be safely gathered in…

**Reading Psalm 146**

My very being

Praises God,

And does so

Every day of my life.

In each breath I take

There is a song of praise to God.

Let us not trust in princes and politicians,

In those whose vision is small,

And from whom comes no help;

They are mortal,

And, like their promises,

are but dust.

But, let us lift our eyes to God,

From whence flows help and hope,

Who made the land and sea and sky,

And all they contain,

And keeps faith with them all;

Who comes down hard on the oppressor,

And lifts up the oppressed with justice,

Who lays tables for the starving,

And unbinds the bound up,

Who brings light to those who live in darkness,

And straightens those bent low,

For God, Loving Creator,

Loves those the world makes orphan and widow,

stranger and refugee.

But the wicked,

The proud,

The fraudulent,

Watch out!

Your fall will be sore.

God is the eternal one,

And lives through each generation.

Praise the creator!

Praise the redeemer!

Praise God!

**Prayer**

Creator

Redeemer

God

Hear us pause

Hear us hold breath

That we might let creation speak

Where we hold silence

(Pause)

The song of birds

The sweep of trees

The flow of air

The run of water

The shimmer of grass

The sliver of fish

The fall of fruit

The shift of leaves

The roll of clouds

The break of rock

The whisper of snow

The pummel of deserts

The rhythm of migration

The crack of frost

The song of creation

(Pause)

And may we honour it by listening to it

Bless it by being part of its chorus

And value it by living humbly within it

Creator

Redeemer

God

In what we have we give thanks

And in what we steal we confess

In what we share we bless

And in what we keep to ourselves we own up

And draw a line here

As prayer always invites

And make a change

In how we speak

And think

And live in relationship with each other and our world

That harvest may be a season of justice

Of right living towards each other

Of heavenly sharing

And kingdom renewing

For all our sakes

And in love’s name

Hear us

In the global prayer

Our Father

Who is in heaven

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

Give us today our daily bread

And forgive us our debts

As we forgive our debtors

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

For yours is the kingdom

The power and the glory

For ever

Amen

**Reflection**

May we always walk gently upon this earth

And in right relationship with creation

May we find the values for our living

Right here among us

In community

**Nurtured by a love** that is not focussed on me but on us

That makes community, neighbourhoods, parties

And recognises we are bigger, and better, than self

Our life is richest in living towards others

Nurtured by that love

**Taking only that which we need**

Enough for joy and health

Enough to share with another

And make healthy community

And recognise that is the purpose of every gift of the earth

It remains a gift, received, and to be given again

And create just relationships

Taking only that which we need

**Giving back to the earth with gratitude**

Everything we have is a sacrifice from the earth

It giving of itself for us

And in giving thanks

We give value to it

With out a spirit of gratitude

Everything is worthless and cheep

Giving back to the earth with gratitude

**Honouring all with reverence**

That the fruit of the earth

The harvest we celebrate

Is not something to own

But something that speaks into what we can be

Calls us beyond ourselves

That challenges us to be more

And to live with greater value towards creation

Honouring with reverence

**Reconciling and healing**

That what the earth gifts us

Is how we heal our divisions

In the sharing and equal distribution

We reduce conflict

We deny hunger

We create community

And right relationships

Reconciling and healing

**Mindful of those who will come after**

For every harvest is about legacy

Taking enough for now

Sustainably living

So there is enough for tomorrow

And the generation after that

Living beyond the immediate now

But living into the future

Faithful living

Mindful of those who will come after

**Recognising our proper place in creation**

Not as overlords

Not as the CEO of creation

Not as presidents and promise ministers of the earth

But as gardeners

Servants

In love with our world

Because of its beauty

And worth

Recognising our proper place in creation

Such radical transformation

Is who we are called to be

And how we hear our faith stories speak

Into this day

And this season

And this time

This harvest

So be it

Amen

**News**

Quiz - Monday 7pm

Sofa Surfers - Thursday 7pm

Coffee Pot - Friday 10.30

Worship - Sunday

Songs of Praise 10th - 7pm

SingSong 12th- week on Tuesday 2pm

All meeting ID numbers and passwords in the bulletin. No quick-links any more.

**Prayers for the Planet**

Creator God

On this dynamic planet

Alive to life

We pray

As we recognise our fragile place

On an ever evolving planet

Scared to mention the effect we have

Unsure if we want to believe it

Unable to consider the consequences

Yet here we are

So in this harvest time

With all the romance of harvests past

And fields gleaned

And fruit stored

May we lay here our prayers for justice

Towards creation

Towards our neighbours on this planet

Towards the value of life and the beauty of Earth

Giving thanks for the immense wealth we have here

Yet the dearth of morals to share it fairly

Why are we not crying out for that kind of justice

Why are we not sick in our souls to share our tables

Our vaccines

Our knowledge

Our welfare

In this harvest

May we face who we are

And confess

And renew

And find our faithful voices

Holy God

Loving creator

As we prepare to shape our life on this planet

In international conferences and discussions

May we progress

Without the need for more wealth

See prosperity not in growth of economy

But in compassionate faith and moral values

This may not be everyones prayer

But it is the one we make here today

This harvest time

So may we gather into the future

Our families and friends

Those sick and ill

Those worried and anxious

Those mentally unwell

Overwhelmed

Our leaders across this globe

And the poor

And let our prayer

linger with them

So be it

Amen

**Benediction**