

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's



Harvest Festival Highlights Podcast 3rd October 2021

Our live service in St Giles' was led by Simon McDowell, standing in for Natasha, who was unwell today. Due to the limitations of recording in St Giles', we have substituted some elements of the service for sound quality, so the credits in this service sheet relate to the podcast.

Greeting

Psalm 126

When the Lord brought back his exiles to Jerusalem,

it was like a dream!

We were filled with laughter,

and we sang for joy.

And the other nations said,

"What amazing things the Lord has done for them."

Yes, the Lord has done amazing things for us!

What joy!

Restore our fortunes, Lord,

as streams renew the desert.

Those who plant in tears

will harvest with shouts of joy.

They weep as they go to plant their seed,

but they sing as they return with the harvest.

Hymn

Come, ye thankful people, come

sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 Come, ye thankful people, come,
 raise the song of harvest-home:
 all be 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.

- 2 All this world is 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.

- 3 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.

- 4 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.

*Henry Alford (1810-1871) and others
(CCLI 50200)*

Opening Prayer

God our maker, you provide for our wants year by year and generation by generation.

You love us, your people, and you give us food and shelter.
You give us people to care for us and to be cared for by us.
You give us community, and you call us to be part of the one world community.

You enrich our lives with thought and pleasure, music, art and storytelling.

And at the centre of all this, you give us our Lord Jesus Christ, your own being here on earth, as Saviour and friend, guide and example, showing us how you intend life on earth to be. We worship you.

Amen

Confession

God of harvest, you have given us everything we need, yet at times we are ungrateful.

We live in a world that has not yet 'made poverty history' and where the poor struggle to live and be heard. We have much to learn about what it means to be your disciples and co-workers.

(Silence)

Deliver us, O Lord. Heal us, forgive us.

Open our hearts to forgive those who have dealt with us unfairly and to embrace the work you call us to labour at until we return, full of song, carrying the sheaves until the final harvest time.

Amen.

Collect: 18th Sunday after Trinity

God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love,
that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord.. **Amen.**

Hymn

We plough the fields, and scatter

sung by St Martin's Voices

1 We plough the fields, and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand:
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft, refreshing rain.
*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
for all his love.*

2 He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread.
Chorus

3 We thank thee then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all thy love imparts,
but that which thou desirest
our humble, thankful hearts.
Chorus

Matthias Claudius (1740-1815) tr Jane Montgomery Campbell (1817-1878)
Wir pflügen und wir streuen (Public Domain)

During the singing of this hymn we brought our Harvest gifts to the altar - Gifts to be distributed to/auctioned for SHOC

Harvest Prayer

inspired by 1 Chronicles 29.13-15

God who cares for us, we bring you gifts to thank you for the ways in which you continue to provide for us and for the ways in which you still guide and care for our community.

Thank you for the beauty of your gifts.

Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. For everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

Amen.

Reading **Leviticus 23.39-43** *read by Simon McDowell*

Natasha's Talk (pt.1)

Hymn

10,000 Reasons

Graham Kendrick and Band – used with kind permission under CCLI License

Chorus:
Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus

You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus

And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul will
Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Chorus x 2

Reading **John 4.31-42** *read by Julie Cawood*

Natasha's Talk (pt.2)

What we believe

Let us declare our faith in God.

cf Ephesians 3

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

led by the Brownies

The Lord's Prayer

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

Hymn

All things bright and beautiful

sung by St Martin's Voices

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful
the Lord God made them all.*

1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings:

Refrain

2 The purple headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

Refrain

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one:

Refrain

4 He gave us eyes to see them,

and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty,
who has made all things well:
Refrain

Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895)(Public Domain)

Final Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us.
May the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us.
May the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us
peace.
Amen.

