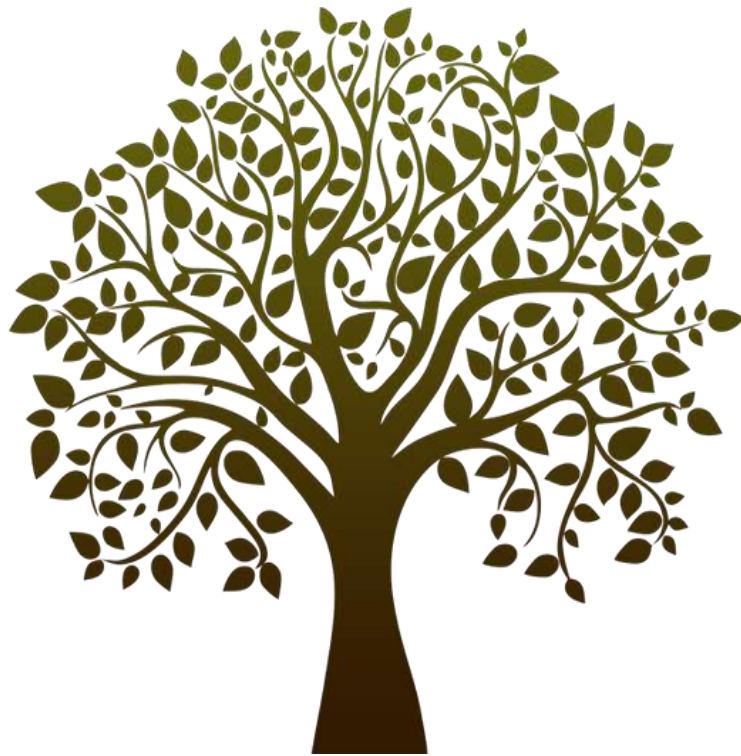




St Stephen with St John  
Westminster  
[www.sswsj.org](http://www.sswsj.org)

# Harvest Thanksgiving



*We gather at the back of church around the Font*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*Water is poured into the Font and blessed  
The Paschal Candle is lit  
The president addresses the congregation as follows*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness  
into his marvelous light.  
To follow Christ means dying to sin  
and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:  
Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?  
**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?  
**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?  
**I come to Christ.**

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,  
give you the strength to continue in the Way.

### ***The Profession of Faith***

*The Children put seeds in the font and then the president addresses the congregation*

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

**We believe in God the Father,  
God Almighty, by whose plan  
earth and heaven sprang to being,  
all created things began.  
We believe in Christ the Saviour,  
Son of God in human frame,  
virgin-born, the child of Mary  
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,  
like a lamb to slaughter led,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
he descended to the dead.  
We believe in Jesus risen,  
heaven's king to rule and reign,  
to the Father's side ascended  
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;  
in one church, below, above;  
saints of God in one communion,  
one in holiness and love.**

**So by faith, our sins forgiven,  
Christ our Saviour, Lord and Friend,  
we shall rise with him in glory  
to the life that knows no end.**

*The president says*

Almighty God,  
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith  
with all who have been baptised into your name.  
Keep us faithful to our baptism,  
and so make us ready for that day  
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

### ***Affirmation of Commitment***

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of the bread,  
and in the prayers?  
**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil and,  
whenever you fall into sin,  
repent and return to the Lord?  
**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example  
the good news of God in Christ?  
**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,  
loving your neighbour as yourself?  
**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,  
by prayer for the world,  
its stewardship and its leaders,  
by defending the weak,  
and by seeking peace and by caring for our planet?  
**With the help of God, I will.**

### ***Opening Hymn: Come Ye Thankful People Come***

**NEH 259**

*During the singing of the hymn we move into the main body of the church*

### ***Prayers of Penitence***

*The young people lay a tree trunk from the font down the main aisle of the church*

As we lay this symbol of growth  
let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of this world,  
the poor, our waste of the resources of the world,  
our caring and our sharing.

We confess to you our lack of care for the world you have given us.  
Kyrie Eleison,  
**Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison**

We confess to you our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly  
Christe Eleison,  
**Christe Eleison, Christe Eleison**

We confess to you our failure to protect the resources for other  
Kyrie Eleison,  
**Kyrie Eleison, Kyrie Eleison**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **The Gloria**

**Glory be to God the Father,  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit,  
Great Jehovah, Three in One!  
As it was, is now, and shall be  
while unending ages run.** (tune 'St. Helen')

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

#### **Collect for Harvest Thanksgiving**

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.

#### **First Reading: Revelation 22:1-5**

*At the end:*

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

#### **Gradual Hymn – during which we place branches on our tree trunk**

**As the deer pants for the water  
So my soul longs after you  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship you**

**You alone are my strength, my shield  
To you alone will my spirit yield  
You alone are my heart's desire  
And I long to worship you**

**I want you more than gold or silver  
Only you can satisfy  
You alone are the real joy giver  
And the apple of my eye**

**You're my friend and you are my Father  
Even though you are my King  
I love you more than any other  
So much more than anything**

*All stand for the Gospel Reading*

**Gospel Reading:** John 6:25-35

*The reader says:*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

*Sit or kneel for the **Prayers of Intercession***

*Whilst music is played, we write prayers on our leaves and place them on the tree*

*The Prayers of Intercession end with the words:*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

*Please stand for **The Peace***

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,  
patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

***The Preparation of the table***

**Offertory Hymn:** We Plough the Fields

NEH 262

*First we place our gifts as fruits hanging from our tree*

*We recall our gifts and lay them around the Lord's table*

***The Eucharistic Prayer***

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all,  
your face is turned towards your world.  
In love you gave us Jesus your Son  
to rescue us from sin and death.  
Your Word goes out to call us home  
to the city where angels sing your praise.  
We join with them in heaven's song:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty:  
Who was, and is, and is to come  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord**

Father of all, we give you thanks  
for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.  
With signs of faith and words of hope  
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.  
**This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son,  
yet at the end they turned on him.  
On the night he was betrayed  
he came to table with his friends  
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.  
**This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:  
This is my body, given for you all.  
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;  
he took the cup, gave it and said:  
This is my blood, shed for you all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.  
**This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate the cross  
on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again  
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.  
**This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now  
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ  
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food  
offer ourselves to live for you  
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven  
where all creation worships you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

*All kneel or sit*

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

### ***Breaking of the bread***

*The President breaks the consecrated bread saying:*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many,  
we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### ***Agnus Dei***

**Jesus Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us,  
Jesus bearer of our sin,  
Have mercy on us.  
Jesus redeemer of the world,  
Give us your peace. Give us your peace**

### ***Giving of Communion***

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The president and people receive the communion. Children and adults who are not communicants are welcome to come to the altar for a blessing. If you usually receive communion in your own church you are welcome to do so today

**Hymn during the distribution:** All Things Bright and Beautiful

NEH 264

### **Post Communion Prayer**

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.**

### **The Notices**

**Final Hymn:** Harvest Samba!

**1. Cabbages and greens,  
broccoli and beans,  
cauliflower and roasted potatoes,  
taste so good to me!**

**Apricots and plums,  
ripened in the sun,  
oranges and yellow bananas,  
good for everyone!**

**Chorus:  
It's another Harvest Festival  
when we bring our fruit and vegetables,  
'cause we want to share the best of all  
the good things that we've been given.**

**It's another opportunity  
to be grateful for the food we eat,  
with a samba celebration to  
say 'Thank you' to God the Father.**

**2. Golden corn and wheat,  
oats and sugar beet,  
fluffy rice and tasty spaghetti,  
wonderful to eat!**

**Coffee, cocoa, tea,  
growing naturally,  
herbal plants and all kinds of spices  
very nice indeed!**

**3. Thank you for the harvest,  
thank you for your goodness,  
for all of the fruit and vegetables  
and the wonderful things that grow.**

**Thank you for the harvest,  
thank you for your goodness,  
for all of the fruit and vegetables  
and the wonderful things that grow.**

### **The Dismissal**

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is the source of all goodness and growth,  
pour his blessing upon all things created,  
and upon you his children,  
that you may use them to his glory and the welfare of all.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**