

**Parishes of Elstead, Thursley,
Shackleford and Peper Harow**

**St Nicholas Church
Peper Harow**



Harvest Festival Service

Gathering

The Greeting

We meet in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit

Amen

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

And also with you.

The earth has yielded its harvest

God, our God, has blessed us.

Lord, you visit the earth and water it

You make it very plenteous

You soften the ground with showers

And bless the increase of it

You crown the year with your goodness

and your paths overflow with plenty

The meadows are clothed with sheep

the valleys stand so thick with corn,

they shout for joy and sing

The earth has yielded its harvest

God, our God, has blessed us.

Welcome and Notices

The minister welcomes us and introduces the service.

*The Minister gives out any notices, and publishes any
Banns of Marriage*

Music we bring our Harvest offerings to the altar.

Sending out

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation
And bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Blessing of our Harvest Gifts

Creator God,
you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea
and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest,
may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, Bless the homeless and the hungry
who will receive these gifts,
let them know a little of the love sent by us
with each precious gift,
give them peace and comfort,
safety and security at this Harvest time.
Amen.

Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God,
the God of all peoples of the earth.
For the colour and forms of your creation
and our place within it,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For our daily food,
and for those whose work and skill
bring your good gifts to us,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For the gifts and graces inspired in human minds and hearts;
For insight and imagination,
For the skills of research
which bring healing and fulfilment to the lives of many;
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For the light and shades of the changing seasons,
and their variety and dependability;
for new life and growth out of barrenness and decay;
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For new hope and strength in our communities,
especially in your Church and among all you call to serve you,
we bring our thanks, good Lord;
your mercy endures for ever.

For all in whose lives we see
goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience and humility,
and all the fruit of the Spirit,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

For the life we have been given,
and for all those whom you have given us to share it,
we bring our thanks, good Lord:
your mercy endures for ever.

Confession

We confess to you
our lack of care for the world you have given us.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you
our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you
our failure to protect resources for others.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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.

Dismissal

Blessing

Please stand for the blessing

God the Father, who created the world,
give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.
Amen.

God the Son, who redeemed the world,
inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest.
Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation,
help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace.
Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always

The Lord's Prayer

As Jesus himself taught us, let us 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Minister breaks the consecrated bread.

Broken for you. Broken for me
The Body of Jesus is broken for us

The Communion

The Minister invites everyone to share in the communion, either by receiving the bread and wine, or by coming forward to receive a special blessing.

If you want a blessing, please keep your hands by your sides
Sit or kneel during Communion

After Communion

Absolution

The Minister then speaks the word of God's forgiveness

May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Collect

The Minister prays the special prayer for the day

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 your 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. **Amen**

Liturgy of the Word

Bible reading/s

At the end of each reading:

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8: 7-18

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in

valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. 10 You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 6-15

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and, with Blessed Mary, Mother of God, St. James and all the saints,
bring us to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

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.

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
Through him you have created us in image,
and made us stewards of your good creation.
Through him you teach us to exult in the birds of the air,
the lilies of the field, the precious and life-giving crops of the earth.
Through him you free us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to die upon the cross
and to rise again for our salvation.
Through him, you begin your work of new creation,
as we look for a new heaven and a new earth
in which your righteousness dwells.
Therefore, we join with angels and archangels,

and give voice to every creature under heaven,
forever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

The Gospel

Please stand for the Gospel Reading

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord

The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Few
Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

After the Gospel

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

Please be seated

Sermon

Affirmation of faith

Please stand

**We believe and trust
In God the Father Almighty**

**We believe and trust
In Jesus Christ His Son**

**We believe and trust
In the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe and trust
In the Three in One.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercessions

Father God, At this harvest time we thank you for all the good things you give us everyday.

As we thank you for our food we remember all those who do not have enough for even one proper meal each day. Bless all those, Lord, who suffer because of the greed of others. Help us to share the harvests of the world more fairly so everyone can be fed and there will be no more starvation.

Lord of all creation: **hear our prayer**

At this harvest time we thank you for the hard work of all those who grow, protect and prepare our food; for the shopkeepers, the transport delivery drivers, the processors and the farmers. Bless all those, Lord, who do not earn a fair day's pay for their hard work both at home and in other countries. Help us to want to buy local produce and fairly traded goods wherever we can so that everyone can work with dignity and there will be no more poverty.

Lord of all creation: **hear our prayer**

At this harvest time we thank you for the world we see around us; for the flowers, the trees and the animals. Bless all those who care for them, Lord. Help us to protect your creation by being careful about how we use your resources so that there will be clean water, clean air and plenty of wild birds, mammals and insects to maintain the ecological balance of our countryside.

Lord of all creation: **hear our prayer**

As we give thanks for all that is good in your creation and all who bring in the Harvest of the sea and the land, we are conscious of so much that we get wrong. So we give thanks too for your grace and patience with us when we fail to look after your world as we should. Help us to change so that we too become a new creation walking in the light of your Gospel.

Lord of all creation: **hear our prayer**

At this harvest time we ask for your blessing on our families, friends and neighbours, on those who are sick and those who have died. Help us to recognise the interdependence of all of life and the importance of just relations and responsible stewardship of all you continue to give us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of all creation: **hear our prayer**

this harvest morning and every day. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Stand

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

We exchange a greeting of peace with others.

Hymn

During this hymn, bread and wine will be offered

Preparation of the table

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
You bring forth bread from the earth
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
You create the fruit of the vine
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic prayer

Having offered the bread and wine, we thank God for all that he has done for us. We remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples, and we pray that through the power of the Holy Spirit the bread and wine today may be Christ's body and blood for us.

Stand