

# Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

4th October 2020

## Harvest Thanksgiving & Feast of St. Francis

### Collect:

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.**

### St Francis Canticle: A Song of Brother Sun

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,  
All praise is Yours, all glory, honour and blessings.  
To you alone, Most High, do they belong;  
no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.

We praise You, Lord, for all Your creatures,  
especially for Brother Sun, who is the day through whom You give us light.

And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour, of You Most High, he bears your likeness.  
We praise You, Lord, for Sister Moon and the stars, in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.

We praise You, Lord, for Brothers Wind and Air, fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.

We praise You, Lord, for Sister Water, so useful, humble, precious and pure.



We praise You, Lord, for Brother Fire, through whom You light the night.

He is beautiful, playful, robust, and strong.

We praise You, Lord, for Sister Earth, who sustains us with her fruits, coloured flowers, and herbs.

We praise You, Lord, for those who pardon, for love of You bear sickness and trial.

Blessed are those who endure in peace, by You Most High, they will be crowned.

We praise You, Lord, for Sister Death, from whom no-one living can escape.

Woe to those who die in their sins!

Blessed are those that She finds doing Your will.  
No second death can do them harm.

We praise and bless You, Lord, and give You thanks, and serve You in all humility.

### A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 9.6-end)

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;

his righteousness endures for ever.'

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 for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! *This is the word of the Lord.*

## Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (12.16-30)

Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.' He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. **This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, o Christ.**

**Reflection:** This year, with Covid19 and lockdown, many of us got great joy from our gardens, allotments and the Suffolk countryside as we had more time on our hands, and these were enjoyable and rewarding places to be. I hope you have a chance to watch the Harvest video Rev Cat has put together with photos and little videos of the produce of our gardens and fields this year.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration falls on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the wonderful saint (1182-1226) who had a great appreciation of God's world and recognised how everything is connected: our universe with the sun, moon; the wind and the air we breathe; the rain and the water we rely on; the earth which sustains and delights us with her fruit, flowers and herbs. St Francis' 'Song of Brother Sun', which is printed on the first page of this weekly sheet, is a wonderful song for us to pray and ponder as it puts all life, and even death, into the bigger context as envisioned by God. St Francis is a very remarkable saint. He came from a wealthy family of cloth traders, but he didn't want to join his father's business. Instead he dreamt of being a knight, but didn't get very far as he was captured in the first battle he fought in and imprisoned for a year. He was restless and searching, and one night while on the battlefield, he had a dream in which he heard God's voice asking him to return to Assisi. He soon realised that God was asking him to follow Jesus. Over time, Francis' life became entirely centred on Jesus and serving the poor. He is someone who lived out this morning's gospel passage where Jesus said to his disciples, *'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. ...And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them.'* These are challenging words for us, encouraging us to rely more on God and work with God in our lives. It's about learning to trust in God's presence with us and caring for others as much as God cares for them, something St Francis increasingly learned to do. In his time he inspired many to join him and live a similar, simple life of service. He came one of the great spiritual leaders of the Christian Church.

His insights and example are extremely relevant for us today as we are urgently called to change our life-styles in order to preserve our beautiful planet, its diversity of species and to care for the poorest in our world, who are most adversely affected by pollution and our changing climate. Pope Francis writes in his encyclical letter 'Laudato Si' (page 11): 'I believe that St Francis is the example *par excellence* of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his openheartedness. He was a mystic and a

## Reflection cont'd)

pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace.'

Perhaps this week, as we give thanks for our food, our beautiful gardens and countryside, for God's goodness and gift of plenty, we can pray St Francis' Song and ask to be shown how to follow his example, to live more selflessly, more simply, more generously sharing what we have; more courageously standing up for goodness, justice and the poor. And like him, flow over with praise, giving thanks and serving God in humility.

*Revd Jutta*

***God is love. Those who live in love  
live in God, and God lives in them.***

**The peace of the Lord  
be always with you.**

For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies.

*Lord of all to Thee we raise  
This our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour,  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon, and stars of light.

For the joy of human love,  
Brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth and friends above,  
pleasures pure and undefiled.

For each perfect gift of thine,  
to our race so freely giv'n,  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heav'n:

For thy Church which evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love.

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.*

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

We thank you, then, O Father,  
for all things bright and good,  
the seed-time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food:  
accept the gifts we offer for all your love imparts;  
and that which you most welcome,  
our humble, thankful hearts.

**Call this number ↓ for free.** It's a lovely  
way to worship from home!

**0800 804 8044**  
**DailyHOPE**

A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

## Notices:

**Congratulations to** Malcolm who was licenced as an Evangelist last Sunday at the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds by Bishop Martin. We pray that God will richly bless Malcolm's ministry among us.

**APCM: 11 October** at 11 am after the Eucharist in Church and on ZOOM. Paperwork was sent by post or emailed during the week. If you have any questions, please contact Revd Jutta before the meeting.

**Harvest gifts:** please bring gifts to church over the next few Sundays (leave in bags at the back of church), or give directly to FIND - you can donate online on their website, or send them a cheque.

### Please pray for:

**Those with chronic or long-term illness:** Eric Dickerson, Rosemary, Jenny, Andrew Barfield, Kathy Steele, Frank D., Andrew Derrett, Peggy, Natacha, Christine, Stephen, Samantha, Rex, Margaret Christian

**Those undergoing treatment or currently ill:** Emily, Gloria Elmer, Helen Harlow, Jean Dominy, Leslie Bloomfield, Katie (cancer), Jim, Alice (Joan's grandson's wife), Vincent Lightbody, Trish, Roger Dickerson

**All who are affected by the Coronavirus** in the UK and around the world: *For all who have lost their jobs due to Covid19; all who are despairing. For all who have lost their lives & livelihoods, the injured, the bereaved.*

**For our government & MPs', and local councillors: for honesty in politics, for wisdom and justice for all. For refugees** across the world & diplomates and peace makers, working to end conflicts

**Those who have recently died, and their families mourning their loss:** Gwen Strike (Phyllis' sister), Colin Wells

**Sunday Worship & other Worship resources on the Church Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/sthomasipswich/>

**4th October—Harvest & St Francis,**  
10am: Eucharist & ZOOM Worship & chat  
6 pm: YOUTH GROUP online

**Tuesday 6th October**  
7.30pm Meditation Group livestream on [Facebook/StThomasPilgrimCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasPilgrimCommunity)

**Wednesday, 7th October, 10am**  
Eucharist in Church with livestream on [Facebook/StThomasipswich](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasipswich)

**Church website:**  
<http://sthomasipswich.org.uk/>

**Please note: The NEW website is up!**

**Contacts:**  
Priest in charge: Revd Jutta Brueck  
m: 07958 360564  
Email: [jutta.brueck@cofesuffolk.org](mailto:jutta.brueck@cofesuffolk.org)  
*Jutta's days off are: Fridays & Saturdays*

Assistant Curate: Revd Cat Connolly  
m: 07530 412988  
Email: [revcatconnolly@gmail.com](mailto:revcatconnolly@gmail.com)  
*Cat's day off: Mondays*

**Pray for members of the St Thomas Congregation**  
(each week we will include a dozen names)

*Keri & Justin Harrison with Kyle, Bradley, Millie & Weston, Roger & Gloria Elmer, Pam Everett, Chris Fisher, Caroline Fisk & family, Alison & Malcolm Gibbs*



*Congratulations to Joanne & Patrick, who were married on 1st October at St Thomas Church*



**Birthdays this week:**

No birthdays!

**YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED FOR NWIPSWICH  
FOODBANK organised by the Big Local Trust:**

**Please** drop non-perishable food at  
Castlehill Community Centre, Highfield Road  
on MONDAYS between 9.30 and 11.00am.

**If you would like to chat,  
please do give us a ring:**

← Revd Jutta or Rev Cat  
Roger Elmer 07810 274586  
Gloria Elmer 745590

Sylvia Dickerson 07903 739487  
Malcolm Gibbs 07906 663530  
Mary Bullass 625135  
Rev Jackie 07962 172639  
Revd Pat 464748