

Ipswich Rd URC

Harvest Festival 2021 (10th October)

Worship for all ages: A world-wide harvest

Led by Sam Roberts and John Potter

As this is an “All -age service,” we are unable to provide all of the words this week.
There are links to online versions of the hymns and the Christian Aid video.

Songs as we gather:

[Come, now is the time to worship](#) (WLV) MP 1040

[Halle, halle, halle](#) (recorded: Wild Goose *Many and Great*, Caribbean)

[Creation sings the Father's song](#) MP 1268

Welcome & Notices

Lighting of the peace candle

The call to worship: Psalm 65: 8-11 (New International Version)

The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;
where morning dawns, where evening fades,
you call forth songs of joy.

⁹You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.

¹⁰You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

¹¹You crown the year with your bounty,
and your carts overflow with abundance.

Hymn: [We plough the fields and scatter](#)

The pizza family

Song: [10,000 reasons](#) (The sun comes up) WLV

Pizza prayers

Song: [Cauliflowers fluffy](#)

The Baobab and the tree of life

> Many of our favourite foods, like something as simple as a pizza involves farmers and food from many different countries.

> Reflecting on a world-wide harvest, I would like to tell you about an amazing tree. It's a tree that many of us won't have seen because it grows in Africa and it is incredibly useful.
> It is the Baobab tree

> They look really weird don't they? – like they have been planted upside-down.
> Many myths have arisen to explain why.

> In one story, God calls all the animals of the world together. They form a long queue and he gives each one a tree to plant. The hyena arrives late as usual and, being last in the queue, is given a small baobab. She is so annoyed that she takes the tree and throws it over her shoulder. The baobab lands with its branches in the ground and its roots in the air!" (BBC)



> According to Christian Aid the Baobab has “special place at the heart of African mythology and culture; for example, there is a myth that the baobab was one of the first plants that God created.”

> The trees don't just provide nutritious fruit because nearly all of the tree can be put to use:

“As a baobab tree grows, its stem becomes hollow, allowing it to store tens of thousands of gallons of water which it can use during dry seasons. People and animals also use the water. This vital source is one reason why the baobab is also known as the tree of life.

> The baobab's canopy provides much needed shelter for people and wildlife that share the sun-scorched plains it lives on.

> The tree's leaves can be cooked and eaten like spinach, the bark is used to make rope and paper, the flowers are used to make glue and its seeds are used to make ink.

> They have ugly but highly nutritious fruit – the Baobab fruits contain more vitamin C than oranges, as well as being a great source of potassium, calcium, fibre and magnesium.”

> In the Christian Aid harvest resources this year, a women's group in Malawi is highlighted. The charity funded the Makande Women's group to set up making and selling fruit juice drinks made from the Baobab tree, so another use that benefits a whole community.

> As the trees get older (some last more than a 1,000 years) their hollow trunks have been used as shelters or storage:

“Huge hollow baobabs have been used as storage barns, prisons, homes, a bar and a bus shelter.” (BBC)

> Christian Aid describes the Baobab as the ‘tree of hope’.

> After having found out about this remarkable tree it reminded me of the trees described in the book of Revelation at the end of the Bible.

> In chapter 22 there is a description of a vision of the heavenly city with river of life running the centre and either side of it are the special healing trees with an amazing fruit:

“The angel showed me a river that was crystal clear, and its waters gave life. The river came from the throne where God and the Lamb were seated. ² Then it flowed down the middle of the city’s main street. On each side of the river are trees that grow a different kind of fruit each month of the year. The fruit gives life, and the leaves are used as medicine to heal the nations.”

> The trees of life give their life-giving fruit all year round and the leaves are used to heal not just people, but whole nations.

> This vision of heaven reminds us that God looks after people all the year round, and we are so lucky that we can find different fruits in our shops all the year round.

> And that is something to praise God for and

Hymn: [We see the fruitful harvest](#) (*Christian Aid video*)

Prayers of concern

(North, South, East, West, home)

Start at home

Pray for food bank helping the hungry, and all those who work in food shops, cafes and restaurants.

North

Pray for those on fishing boats far out to sea in northern waters so we can enjoy our fish and chips

East

Pray for farmers in far away countries who toil up to their knees in water in rice paddies, the women high on hillsides picking tea, and those who grow spices that make our food so tasty.

South

Pray for those who grow and collect so much of the fruit we enjoy like oranges and lemons from Spain and South Africa. We also remember those who harvest coffee in South America

West

Pray for the farmers of West Africa who grow cocoa beans to make the chocolate we so enjoy.

Even further West, the USA that grows sweetcorn – that we can eat as it is, or make cornflakes and popcorn from.

Home

Pray for those we know in need of God's special care:

Lord's Prayer

Song: My God shall supply

The Messy Grace shared