

## Harvest End - R.S.Thomas

The seasons fly;  
the flowers wither;  
the leaves lie  
on the ground. Listen  
to the sad song  
of the reapers: 'Ripe  
corn', as over the sea  
the birds go.

Suddenly the year  
ends. The wind rages;  
everything in its path  
breaks. Dire weather;  
in front of a stick  
fire, fetched from  
the forest, firm and infirm  
cower within doors.

The longest of lives  
too soon slips by.  
Careers fold and with  
them good looks fade.  
Spring's bloom is spent,  
summer is done, too.  
With a rush we come  
to winter in the grave.



### Call to worship

Come, for all are invited.  
Come, praise and worship the one who accepts us all.  
Come, for all are welcome, all are valued, all are called.

### A gathering prayer

Creator God, breathing your own life into our being, you give us the gift of life. You placed us on this earth with its flowers and fruits, minerals and waters, living creatures of grace and beauty. At harvest time the earth reaches the peak of its fruitfulness. It depends on us to praise you by harvesting its goods in ways which ensure there will be harvests in the future. You gave us the care of the earth.  
Today you ask us: "Where are you? What have you done?"

### Reflection

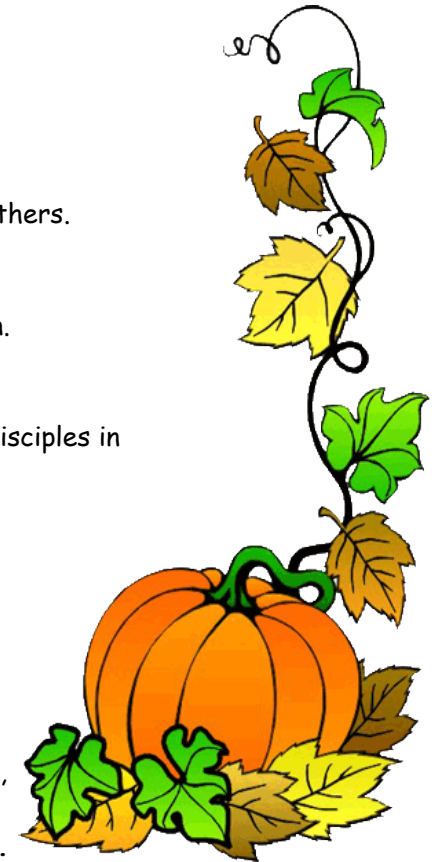
God of harvest, gardener supreme  
you place us at the centre,  
feed us, equip us and having provided for us  
look to a different harvest:  
a fruitfulness of lives in service to you and others.  
God of harvest,  
feed us, prune us, harvest us:  
that our lives might bring glory to you. Amen.

### A prayer of adoration

O God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in  
the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in his redeeming work,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### A sending out prayer

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.**



Sunday worship in St George's Church, Ypres is at 10.30 am CET  
under Covid-Safe rules - please come along if you are able.

Zoom worship (Evening Prayer) TONIGHT on the  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at 7pm CET

[YpresPadre@outlook.com](mailto:YpresPadre@outlook.com)

### *The Collect for the Day*

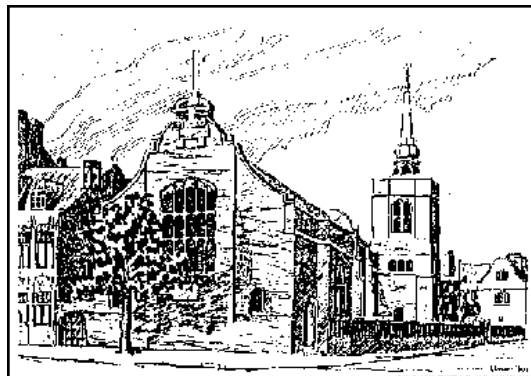
Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness  
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:  
grant that we may use them to your glory,  
for the relief of those in need and for our own well being;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

### *A Post Communion Prayer*

May God the Holy Spirit,  
who hovered over the waters of creation  
and formed the world from chaos,  
form us in the likeness of Christ  
and renew the face of the earth. **Amen.**

*Please feel free to pass  
a copy of this onto others  
or send by email.*

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# St George's Memorial Church Ieper

October 1<sup>st</sup> 2021  
Harvest Sunday

*Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Luke 12:16-30*  
Copy and paste readings into the online Oremus Bible here:  
<https://bible.oremus.org/>

### Harvest Festival

Traditionally Harvest  
was a time to thank  
God for the goodness  
of creation and the  
food we grow and enjoy  
each season.



Churches often received gifts which were auctioned to raise funds  
for charities or passed on directly to needy people in the  
community. This now is often done by donation to local foodbanks.

Different themes may now augment this element of thanksgiving.  
Wider creation issues are now often part of Harvest and may  
include topics such as pollution, climate change and matters of  
poverty and justice.

*'Sharing God's Peace for all Nations through the Gospel.'*