

Worship@Home 27th September 2026

Led by Matt Forsyth (District Mission team Leader- Northampton Methodist District)

Opening Prayer:

Come be our guide, O God,
As we seek to follow in your way.
Come light our path, O God,
As we worship and sing to you this day.
Come be our leader, O God,
as we search for what is ours to do as part of your mission here on earth.
Amen.

StF247 I danced in the morning when the world was begun

<https://youtu.be/-BILRPdj9Ho?si=euLT9icAMXyH-UY2>

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun;
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John:—
They came with me and the Dance went on.

Chorus

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,
And they left me there on a cross to die.

Chorus

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance, and I still go on.

Chorus

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me –
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Chorus

Sydney Carter (1915-2004)

Please read: Exodus 17:1-7 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=463736907>

Philippians 2:1-13 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=271330550>

Time to Reflect

What is God growing among us?

There is something extraordinary about an ordinary breakfast. Before we have left the kitchen, our lives have been touched by people we will probably never meet. Someone planted, someone harvested, someone transported. Rain fell. Something grew. We might have paid for our breakfast, but we could never have produced everything behind it on our own.

Harvest invites us to notice those gifts. Our readings also ask what receiving them does to us. Alongside “What has the land produced?” comes another question: **“What is God growing among us?”**

1. Receive with gratitude

Exodus takes us somewhere that hardly looks suitable for Harvest: a wilderness with no water. The people are frightened, and understandably so. They have children and livestock to keep alive. Their need is real.

But fear turns into accusation, and underneath their arguments lies a painful question: “Is the Lord among us or not?” Yesterday’s experience of God’s faithfulness feels distant from today’s uncertainty. Perhaps we recognise that feeling when we look at our finances, our health, or the future of a church we love.

Notice that they have travelled as God commanded. **A difficult place does not necessarily mean we have taken a wrong turning.** And God meets them there. Water flows from the rock. Grace reaches them in the place of their questioning.

Harvest makes room for thanksgiving and uncertainty together. We can pray, “Thank you for sustaining me,” while also saying, “Lord, I am frightened about tomorrow.”

2. Live with humility

Paul begins Philippians 2 by reminding the church of what they have received: encouragement, love, fellowship and compassion. Then he asks them to let those gifts shape their relationships.

That becomes challenging when someone disagrees with us, a decision goes against us, or something we value begins to change. Paul invites us to pay attention to other people’s needs. Sometimes that begins with a simple question: “What matters most to you about this?”

Then Paul points to Jesus, who takes the servant’s place and gives himself in love, even to death on a cross. The one whom God exalts is the one who serves.

At Harvest, that love becomes practical. Gratitude becomes generosity. We share food, value those who produce it, and care for the earth that sustains us. **Whose needs might we notice if we loosened our grip on our own preferences?**

3. Grow through grace

We might think, “I want to live like that, but I find it difficult.” Paul offers encouragement: God is already at work in us, shaping our willingness and our actions.

John Wesley put it simply: “God worketh in you; therefore, you can work.”

A gardener cannot manufacture life within a seed, but there is still planting and tending to do. We participate in the growth God makes possible. Through prayer, generosity, listening and forgiveness, grace takes visible shape among us.

So, what is God growing here? Are newcomers finding friendship? Are quieter voices being heard? Are we becoming more generous towards our neighbours?

This week, name one gift for which to give thanks, one person who needs your attention, and one action you can take.

The God who brought water into the wilderness is still at work among us: growing gratitude, growing humility, and growing love. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

You are invited to pray silently for:

The needs of the world...

The Church and its calling...

Loved ones going through difficult times...

Peace, justice and reconciliation...

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer Our Father, who art in heaven...

459 STF – Captain of Israel's host

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nt4CppbkXMg>

Captain of Israel's host, and Guide of all who seek the land above, beneath the shadow we abide. The cloud of thy protecting love; Our strength, thy grace; our rule, thy word; Our end, the glory of the Lord!

By thy unerring Spirit led, we shall not in the desert stray. We shall no other guidance need. Nor miss our providential way; As far from danger as from fear, while love, almighty love, is near.

Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Final Prayer

Oh gift-giver, Bringer of hope,

Lord of light, Prince of peace,

We have received so much from your blessings. Help us to show your love in our gifts, our actions and our worship this week, we pray

Amen.