

A Seasonal All Age Worship Service

(SAAW019)

Harvest:

“Whose world is it?”

© Jane Hulme 2017

ALL AGE WORSHIP
RESOURCES.ORG



HARVEST – “WHOSE WORLD IS IT?”

Service Aim:

To teach that: 1) The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. 2) We have been called to look after it and 3) God wants us to act against the injustice of poverty.

Biblical Reference(s):

Psalm 24:1, 1Chronicles 29:11a, Genesis 1:27-31a, Proverbs 19:17, Matthew 25:35a, 1John 3:17-18

Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Warm up:	Drama: “That’s mine!” ending with Psalm 24:1
Talk 1:	The earth is the Lord’s and everything we have comes from Him.
Puppets:	“Thank you Lord for my chips”
Link:	One of our responses to the Lord is to “give thanks”
Prayer:	1 Chronicles 29:11a
Song:	<u>A couple of songs of thanks</u> (See Appendix 1) (Harvest gifts are presented)
Reading:	Genesis 1:27-31a
Talk 2:	God has called us to look after His world but we have messed up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the potato say? “Use your eyes.....look and see”
Film:	TearFund’s “Born hungry” film (4:23)
Link:	What does the onion say? “God weeps”
Confession:	What does the pea say? “You are all like peas in the pod....you all sin”
Song:	<u>A song/s about justice</u> (See Appendix 1)
Link:	What does the corn say? “Use your ears.....listen to what God says?”
Readings:	Proverbs 19:17, Matthew 25:35a, 1John 3:17-18
Link:	What does the banana say? “Lend a hand.....do something”
Film:	TearFund’s “Hunger steals” film (1:36)
Talk 3:	What can we do to help those who are hungry?
Prayers:	
Summary:	
Song:	<u>A final song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the Harvest service and introduce the theme as: "Whose world is it?"

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship"¹ that the congregation can say together,
- or the following responsive prayer from Psalm 136:1-4:

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords

His love endures forever.

To him who alone does great wonders

His love endures forever.

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

Warm up:

The warm up is a short drama called "That's mine!" It can be found in Appendix 2. You will need two actors and an off-stage voice.

Talk 1:

Today in our Harvest service we are looking at the question, "Whose world is it?"

- Does the world belong to us or does it actually belong to someone else?
- Is everything that you and I own really ours so that we can say, "That's mine" like the two children said in our drama?
- I wonder what you think.

At the end of the drama you heard a verse read from Psalm 24 that says:

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it."

The Bible tells us that the earth and everything in it actually belongs to the Lord, and not to us.

- Everything that you and I have is a gift from Him.
- The clothes we wear, the food we eat, the homes we live in are all gifts from God.

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603
© Jane Hulme 2017

And what an incredibly generous God we have.

- We can see that as we look at His creation and see the many different varieties of plants and foods that He has made for us to enjoy.
- We can see His generosity as we wander around the supermarket and see all the thousands of different foodstuffs available to us to enjoy.

The earth and everything in it belongs to the Lord.

- Today, on this Harvest Sunday we have the opportunity to remember that and to thank Him for His generous gifts to us.
- But should we only remember to thank the Lord for His gifts on just one Sunday a year?
- Let's see what Grandad is teaching James.

Puppets:

The puppet script is "Thank you Lord for my chips" (see Appendix 3) and it works with a boy puppet "James"² and a "Grandad" puppet. The aim of the puppet script is to encourage people to make saying Grace before a meal a habit as part of developing an ongoing habit of thankfulness.

Link:

One of the ways that we can respond to all the good gifts that the Lord gives us is to regularly say, "thank you" to Him.

- If you don't already stop and say a short prayer of thanks before you eat a meal maybe that is something you could begin doing.
- It is a good way to remember that the earth and everything in it is the Lord's and your food is a gift from Him.

As we continue through the service I am going to ask you the question: *"Whose world is it?"*

- I want you to reply: *"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it." Psalm 24 verse 1*

"Whose world is it?"

- ***"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it" Psalm 24 verse 1***

We are going to thank the Lord now for all of His good gifts to us by saying some words together from the book of 1 Chronicles,

- and then by singing a couple of songs.

[If it is your practice to collect food at Harvest you may invite people to bring their food forward during the songs, having explained what will happen to the collected food]

Prayer:

The prayer is from 1 Chronicles 29:11a

***Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power
and the glory and the majesty and the splendour,
for everything in heaven and earth is yours.***

² You can purchase a boy puppet and a Grandad puppet from www.onewayuk.com

Songs:

A couple of songs of thanks as per Appendix 1. Once the congregation have finished speaking out 1 Chronicles 29:11a, move immediately into the songs.

Reading:

The reading is Genesis 1:27-31a and can be read by a child, young person or adult in a modern version of the Bible. Introduce the reading by saying something like:

"Whose world is it?"

- ***"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it" Psalm 24 verse 1***

As we listen to our Bible reading, see if you can hear what God has called you and me to do in His world.

Talk 2:

For this talk you will need a table on which is a large potato that has "eyes" that can be seen by the congregation. You will also need to PowerPoint the slides in Appendix 4, or enlarge them and show them as pictures.

Can anyone tell me what God has called you and me to do in His world? *(Receive answers)*

- That's right.....He has called us to rule over His world.
- We are to *"rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."* (Genesis 1:28)
- In other words, God has put us in charge of looking after His world.
- He has given us responsibilities.

Do you think that we humans have made a very good job of looking after God's world? *(Receive answers)*

- If we are honest we have made rather a mess of it haven't we?

If we were to ask a part of God's creation what they think I wonder what they would say to us? Here's a potato. *(Hold up the potato)*

- If you look at it carefully you will see what are called the eyes of the potato.
- So the potato might say to us today: *"Use your eyes - look and see"*

Use your eyes to see the animals and birds that God has made and the amazing variety that there is. *(Show slide 1 from Appendix 4)*

- Use your eyes to see the beauty of flowers, of trees and what that says to us of God's love for beauty *(Show slide 2 from Appendix 4)*
- Use your eyes to see the mountains and the hills that speak of the changeless nature of God *(Show slide 3 from Appendix 4)*

But also use your eyes and see the animals that have been hunted by man almost to extinction. *(Show slide 4 and 5 from Appendix 4)*

- Use your eyes and see the sea that has been littered by man, causing all sorts of problems for the wildlife. *(Show slide 6 from Appendix 4)*
- Use your eyes and see the scorched land that no longer gets enough rain because man has plundered the earth so that the whole climate is changing. *(Show slide 7 from Appendix 4)*

Use your eyes and see the people who don't have enough to eat,

- even though God has provided more than enough food to go around everyone.
(Show slide 8 from Appendix 4)

Use your eyes and see God's world;

- beautiful and amazing,
- yet messed up in all sorts of ways,
- because we have failed to look after it properly.

Today as it is Harvest, we are going to spend the rest of the service using our eyes to look at one of the big issues in our world today;

- the issue of hunger,
- and we will see what we can do about it.

Film:

The film is from Tearfund³ and is called "Born hungry" and is 4 minutes and 23 seconds long. You may like to introduce the film by saying something like:

The film you are about to see is from the Christian charity Tearfund;

- a charity that is called to follow Jesus wherever the need is greatest.

Link:

For this link you will need a large onion and a pea pod with peas inside it.

"Whose world is it?"

- ***"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it" Psalm 24 verse 1***

795 million people around the world will go hungry today. (From Tearfund film)

- 795 million people will not have enough food to eat today.
- Can you imagine what that feels like?

Many people around the world are living on less than £1 a day and may only eat once if they are lucky.

- When they do eat, it won't be fish and chips or chicken nuggets or sausages or pizza.
- It may be a small bowl of rice, or beans or some grain mixed up with dirty water.

It's not fair is it?

- Do you think that God is happy that this is happening in His world?
- I don't think that God is happy about this at all.
- Let's see what our onion has to say to us. (Hold up the onion)

Who knows what happens to people when they cut an onion in half? (Receive answers)

- That's right.....they cry.

So our onion might say to us today: *"When God looks upon all of His hungry precious children, He weeps."*

- God weeps.

³ You can find the "Born Hungry" film on Tearfund's website here:

http://www.tearfund.org/en/about_you/resources/for_churches/pack_library/born_hungry_resource/download_resources/

You can also find the "Born Hungry" film on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRTP4mrnH0>

© Jane Hulme 2017

You see God cares very deeply about the poor and if you look through the Bible there are many verses that teach us that we, His people, need to take care of their needs.

But sadly we have very often put our own needs first.

- Our pea pod has something to say to us about that. (*Hold up the peapod*)
- Our pea pod might say to us today: *“You are all like peas in a pod....you all sin”*

So let's take a moment of quiet to be still before the Lord before we confess our sins to Him.

Confession and Absolution:

You might find it helpful to project a picture of a pea-pod as you say the following Confession prayer together.

**Forgive us Lord where we have been greedy;
eating more than we need and
taking more things than we need,
while many people around the world go hungry.**

**Forgive us Lord where we have been selfish;
just thinking about what we want and
how we feel,
while many people around the world are living in despair.**

**Forgive us Lord where we have failed to love;
not sharing what you have given us,
nor caring about the needs of others.
while many people around the world are suffering greatly.**

**Help us Lord to change and to make a difference in your world,
by the choices we make each day.
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Follow this with a prayer of Absolution.

Song:

A song/s about justice as per Appendix 1

Link:

For this link you will need an ear of corn.

“Whose world is it?”

- ***“The earth is the Lord's and everything in it” Psalm 24 verse 1***

So if the potato might say to us: *“Use your eyes - look and see”*

- and the onion might say to us: *“When God looks upon all of His hungry precious children, He weeps,”*
- and the peapod might say to us: *“You are all like peas in a pod....you all sin,”*
- I wonder what this ear of corn might say to us. (*Hold up ear of corn*)

The ear of corn might say to us: *“Use your ears - listen to what God is saying to you;”*

- which is what we are going to do next as we listen to some readings from the Bible.

Readings:

The readings are Proverbs 19:17, Matthew 25:35a and 1John 3:17-18. These could be read by three different people; adults, children or young people from a modern version of the Bible.

Link:

For this link you will need a bunch of bananas.

So what is God saying to us through these readings?

- He is saying to us, "Do something!"
- Find ways to give food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty.
- If you have stuff, share it!

Our hand of bananas can remind us of that. (*Hold up hand of bananas*)

- It might say to us: "*Lend a hand.....do something!*"
- And that is exactly what we, God's church can do.
- Watch this film from Tearfund and see how many different ways you can see the church in action, lending a hand.

Film:

The film is from Tearfund⁴ and is called "Hunger steals, the church gives" and is 1 minute and 36 seconds long.

Talk 3:

How many different ways did you see the church on the film doing something, lending a hand? (*Receive answers*)

- I saw people giving time and taking part in a sponsored run, raising money for Tearfund.
- I saw people giving time and making cakes and selling them for Tearfund.
- I saw people praying and
- I also saw people giving money and writing cheques to Tearfund.

We can all give something can't we?

- We all have time and many of us have money.
- We just need a bit of imagination to work out what we can do.

[If relevant say: Today many of you have brought along food which will be given to those locally who are struggling to make ends meet and that is really great,

- but there is always more that we can give.]

I wonder how many of us could save £10 a month to be able to keep a child from going hungry.

Most of us could go without a few things each week to save money couldn't we?

- If you eat sweets or chocolate,
- why not cut down on how much you buy and give the money you save away.

⁴ You can find the "Hunger steals, the church gives" film on Tearfund's website here:

<http://www.tearfund.org/en/hungersteals/>

You can also find the "Hunger steals, the church gives" film on YouTube here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=fqhVK4EtPR4

© Jane Hulme 2017

If you drink wine with a meal regularly,

- why not go without for a week and give the money you save away.

Instead of buying a new top,

- why not go to a charity shop and buy something much cheaper and give the money you save away.

£10 a month could change the life of a child.

- Is that something you could think about doing?

[You may wish to talk here about the aid projects your church is supporting]

Remember what Proverbs 19:17 said: *“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.”*

- Are you willing to “lend to the Lord?”

Prayers:

You may like to use the potato, onion, peapod, ear of corn and hand of bananas as aids to prayer as follows:

- 1) Potato: Pray that we will use our eyes and see God’s world as God sees it
- 2) Onion: Pray that we will weep over the injustice of poverty, as God does
- 3) Peapod: Pray that we will all turn away from greed and selfishness and be united in our desire to do something about the injustice of poverty
- 4) Corn: Pray that we will listen and hear what God is saying to us
- 5) Bananas: Pray that we will lend a hand and do something to make a difference

End with the Lord’s Prayer

Summary:

Summarize the service by saying something like:

“Whose world is it?”

- ***“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it” Psalm 24 verse 1***

God has called us to look after His world.

- The potato reminds us to *“Use our eyes - look and see”*
- The onion shows us that *“When God looks upon all of His hungry precious children, He weeps.”*
- The peas in the pod remind us that *“We are all like peas in a pod.... we all sin.”*
- The ear of corn reminds us to *“Use our ears - listen to what God is saying to us”*
- And the hand of bananas encourages us to *“Lend a hand.....do something!”*

Song:

A final song as per Appendix 1.

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service something like:

Freely you have received, freely give. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

Appendix 1 – Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of songs to draw people into worship. Ideas include:

- Come you thankful people come (Sam Hargreaves © 2009 Resoundworship.org)
- Give thanks to the Lord our God and King (Chris Tomlin © 2000 worshiptogether.com songs / Six Steps Music / Adm.by Kingsway Music)
- Let everything that (Matt Redman © 1997 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
- Praise Him you heavens (Russell Fragar © 1998 Russell Fragar / Hillsong Publishing / Kingsway Music)
- We come to you with a heart of thanks (Brian Doerksen & Steve Mitchinson © 1999 Vineyard Songs)
- We plough the fields and scatter (Matthias Claudius)

ii) A couple of songs of thanks. Ideas include:

- Blessed be your name in the land (Beth & Matt Redman © 2002 Thankyou Music)
- Come you thankful people come (H Alford)
- God is good, God is great (Alan Price © 1994 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- I give thanks (Vineyard Kids)
- Thank you very much (Alan Price © 1996 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- The earth is the Lord's and everything in it (Graham Kendrick © 1986 Thankyou Music)

iii) A song/s about justice. Ideas include:

- Beauty for brokenness (Graham Kendrick © 1993 Make Way Music)
- For the fruits of His creation (Fred Pratt Green © 1970 Stainer & Bell Ltd)
- God of justice (Tim Hughes © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- This world says "keep" (Sheldon Bangera © 2015 Thankyou Music)
- When I needed a neighbour (Sydney Carter © 1965 Stainer & Bell Ltd)
- Where there's no song for the silent (Peter Semple © Peter Semple)
- You have shown us (CompassionArt © 2008 GloWorks Ltd for CompassionArt)

iv) A final song. Ideas include:

- Creation sings the Father's song (Keith & Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend © 2008 Thankyou Music)
- For the beauty of the earth (Folliott S Pierpoint)
- Great is thy faithfulness (Thomas O. Chisholm)
- O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder (Stuart K Hine)

Appendix 2 – Drama – “That’s mine!”

Cast: Two children (either adults dressed as children or two older children), an off-stage voice.

Props: Table and two chairs. A bag containing about 25 pieces of duplo or other building bricks and a bag containing a small doll, a packet of felt-tip pens and some plain paper

.....
(Enter the two children each carrying one of the bags of toys. They walk to the front of the church and sit down at the table facing the congregation)

Child 1: Look what I’ve got to play with today *(pulls out some duplo and lays it on the table)*

Child 2: That looks fun. Look at these *(pulls out a packet of felt-tips and a pad of paper)*

Child 1: Nice

(Child 1 tips out the duplo onto the table and begins to make a house with it. Child 2 begins to draw with their felt-tips on the paper)

Child 2: What are you making?

Child 1: A house

Child 2: Oh I’ve got a doll in here that you could make the house for

(Child 2 reaches into their bag and pulls out a small doll)

Child 1: That’s a nice doll

Child 2: I know.....it’s my favourite one

Child 1: Can I play with it while you finish off your drawing?

Child 2: No you can’t....it’s mine.

Child 1: Oh go on.....just for a minute

Child 2: No.....it’s mine and you can’t touch it.

Child 1: Well if you are going to be like that, you can’t put your doll into my house. That’s mine.

Child 2: I don’t care about your stupid house. All of these pens and paper are mine.
(Puts arms around felt-tips and paper)

Child 1: And all of this duplo is mine. *(Puts arms around duplo)* PAUSE

Child 2: Well this bit of the table is all mine. *(Draws an imaginary line down the table)*

Child 1: And this bit of the table is all mine. PAUSE

Child 2: Well this chair that I am sitting on is mine

Child 1: And this chair is mine. PAUSE

Child 2: Well the air over this side of the table is all mine so don't come and breathe over here.

Child 1: I won't because all of the air over this side of the table is mine anyway.

(Child 1 and child 2 turn so that their backs are towards each other and freeze)

Offstage: The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. PAUSE

(Child 1 and child 2 exit)

Appendix 3 – Puppet Script – “Thank you Lord for my chips”

Characters:



The script is a dialogue between a young boy puppet called “James” who wants to follow Jesus but keeps getting things wrong, and his wise old “Grandad” puppet who helps to sort him out. Each puppet is operated by one person from behind a screen and so it is essential that the voices are heard; radio-microphones are ideal. Puppets and puppet screens can be purchased from many sources including <http://www.onewayuk.com/>

Enter Grandad

Grandad: James, James where are you. Tea’s ready.

Enter James

James: Here I am Grandad.....what’s for tea today....I’m starving?

Grandad: Your favourite.....sprouts, cauliflower and broccoli casserole.

James: Oh.....er.....how kind of you Grandad.....but actually I’ve got a bit of a stomach ache.....so perhaps I’ll pass on tea.

Grandad: What if I were joking about the sprouts and it was really chicken and chips, followed by chocolate fudge cake.....would your stomach cope with that?

James: Grandad....you’re the best.....yes please.

Grandad: How about you saying grace James?

James: What’s grace Grandad? I thought grace was a girl’s name.

Grandad: Grace is when we say a thank you prayer to the person who has provided us with the food that we are about to eat...

James: Thank you Grandad for this lovely food.....

Grandad: Come on James.....be serious for a moment....

James: OK. Thank you Sainsburys so much for my tea.....especially for the chocolate fudge cake....you make them really well. Oh and by the way please could you make the chips a bit thinner because I prefer them that way and.....

Grandad: Hold on...hold on.....JamesI think you are a bit confused. Who do you think provides all your food for you?

James: Sainsbury’s of course Grandad. I go shopping with my mum there every week and we buy all the food together. I put all the things that I want in the trolley when mum’s not looking so when we get to the check-out mum does have some surprises.

Grandad: I'm sure she does.....James I think you and I need to do some thinking about this. Let's start with your chips. Did you know that chips are sliced up potatoes?

James: Oh yes Grandad.

Grandad: And where do potatoes grow?

James: That's an easy question.....I know that potatoes grow in the ground...

Grandad: And what do they need to grow?

James: Soil, sun, rain.....

Grandad: And who provides all of those?

James: God.....oh...Grandad....so God is really the one who has provided my chips. Thank you God.....I like chips.

Grandad: Now what about your chicken?

James: We learnt at school the other day that chickens come out of eggs....and hen's lay eggs.....so I suppose we thank the hens for the chickens. Thank you Mrs. Hen.....

Grandad: No.....who made the hens?

James: God made the hens. Oh I'm starting to understand Grandad....God is the one who gives us our food. Thank you God....I like chicken.....but what about my chocolate fudge cake Grandad? Next thing you'll be saying is that chocolate grows on trees.

Grandad: Well as a matter of fact chocolate does grow on trees.....as cocoa beans in very hot countries.

James: Wow.....thank you God for chocolate trees.....I like chocolate.

Grandad: So do I James.....isn't God good? He is the One who gives us all the things that we need.....and He has even given you a Grandad to cook your tea. Would you like to say grace now?

James: Yes Grandad. Dear God.....thank you very much for my tea of chicken and chips and chocolate fudge cake. Thank you also for giving me a Grandad to cook my tea....and please God could you breathe on my tea now and heat it up because while we have been talking it has gone rather cold. Amen.

Exit James and Grandad

Slide 4: The cheetah is racing towards extinction (from “The Telegraph” January 2017)



Slide 5: The Northern White rhino – there are only 3 left in the world (from “The Telegraph” January 2017)



Slide 6: Littered sea



Slide 7: Scorched land (from Tearfund)



Slide 8: Hungry people (from Tearfund - Jumana from Hillé Bar village Chad, at home with her children (from left to right - Katir Salam, 7, Zein Zein, 2, Jumana, Yasmin, 6, and Mouktar Salam, 5))

