

Worship Outline: October 18 World Food Sunday

Prelude: Poco Allegretto (C. Franck)

Welcoming

Introit: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying (K. Medema) VU#400

World Food Day Prayer

Creator of all that is, all that has ever been, and all that will ever come, in the season we know in the North as autumn, we offer gratitude for the cycle of the seasons. In this season we begin to reap what we have sown, tended to, prayed over, and fretted on.

In all of this, we know that you have been there, watching over your creation and all its creatures.

We lament over crops that were lost this year, to drought, and hail, and floods, to frost, to lack of workers, to pandemic. We lament over crops that were never planted, where farmers could not access their land or do not have the privilege to acquire land. Help us to stand in solidarity with farmers whose harvest never came to yield; help us to see land not as a resource to use, but as a gift to share.

As the leaves begin to turn brilliant reds, oranges, and yellows, we begin to pull from the ground the fruit of our labour. The potatoes, squash, brussels sprouts, cabbage, apples, pears and more begin to fill our baskets. We give thanks. The corn and beans are ready to be stored; they have dried on their stocks. We know that these foods will sustain us through the winter.

We give thanks for labourers who have come to harvest, workers from near and far, many who travel to this land to find work. Sustainer, open our eyes to their sacrifice and help us to honour their gift. We pray for a safe harvest for all labourers and farmers.

As the honeybee prepares for winter, we enjoy honey's nectar sweetness.

Creator, we are called back to remember our interconnectedness during this harvest season.

Forgive us the times that we have been disconnected from our relations in our desire to take more than we should. Call us back into the fabric of creation so that we might live in the abundance of life. For all this, and more, we give thanks.

Amen.

Michael Shewburg is Executive Director of Five Oaks and lives on an organic farm with his farming partner Ryan and son Marshall.

World Food Day Community Message

Hymn: Fairest, Lord Jesus VU341

Scripture: Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reflection: Food In-Security-Indigenous Canada

<https://yellowheadinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/covid-food-insecurity.pdf>

Special Music: Improvisation

Hymn: Soil of God, you and I MV174

Prayer at the Table

More than enough O God of Grace and Mercy, we are a nation of all-you-can-eat buffets and fast foods. We have forgotten what it is to eat what we need to be healthy, and to know when we have had enough. Remind us of the morning manna in the desert, of simply gathering what is needed each day, and gratefully trusting in your provision for the next. Disturb us at the thought of “haves” and “have-nots.” Help us to realize that a true feast is not defined by the quantity of food, but by the certainty that everyone—even our enemy— has a welcome place at the table. Amen.

Deborah Harris, in Feast Together. Posted on the Seeds Publishers website

Choral Closing: God Be With You till We Meet Again (W. Tomer) VU#422

Recessional: Maestoso (C. Franck)