

All Good Gifts: giving thanks for the gifts in our community

'We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.' (Romans 12:6)

Call to worship (from Psalm 106)

LEADER:

How good it is to give thanks to God.

PEOPLE:

How great are God's works!

LEADER:

It is good to give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

ALL:

Let us, then, give thanks to God. Let us worship God with thanksgiving!





Scripture reading: Romans 12: 3-8

Reflection

During the season of Harvest, we rejoice in God's generosity. We celebrate the gifts of the earth and the beauty of creation, and we express our gratitude to the God who gives them. We are also reminded to celebrate the generosity of so many people in our communities who give themselves in loving service to their neighbours and to the world.

Paul's letter to the Romans reminds us that that we are all given different gifts to share generously with each other, and for the good of our community. Yet we are also one body,

and it's only when everyone is enabled to bring their unique gifts that we truly flourish as individuals and as a community.



Together we are made to love God and love our neighbours. And we do this by sharing our individual gifts, many and varied as they are, for the benefit of everyone. God calls each us of us to show our love for others by offering what we can to the life of our community. Together we are thankful for what each one brings.

Harvest (continued)



IDEA!



Inviting others to be part of your harvest celebration. Harvest is a great opportunity to invite the wider community to join a special service of celebration. You could include an interview slot where you showcase the work of a local community project and interview one of their volunteers.

Questions for reflection (as a group or for individual reflection)



- How aware are you of your own gifts and the gifts of those around you?
- How can we help each person in our community to contribute their unique gifts for the good of everyone?
- How do we acknowledge and celebrate the gifts in our community?

Spend some time praying for your community

Closing prayer



Ever-present God, you are always inviting us to join in with what you are doing.

Strengthen your Church to serve you.

Give us the grace to meet human need through loving service, and to help build communities of hope and resilience.

We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unit of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

IDEA!



Head Heart Hands: This simple activity can help people of all ages identify their own gifts: gifts of the head (knowledge), gifts of the heart (passions) and gifts of the hands (practical skills). It encourages us to connect with other people with shared interests and to find out what gifts others have to contribute.

Find out how to use this activity as part of your service or with a small group by going to:

<https://cuf.org.uk/growing-good-in-every-season/HHH>