

HARVEST & THANKSGIVING: A REFLECTION

Today in Canada many congregations celebrate the Harvest Festival. It's a time of thanksgiving for the produce of the land, for life since last year's celebration, and especially in the context of COVID-19. It's a time to celebrate the changing of the seasons, and a time to focus on gratitude for the simple things of life that we often take for granted. It's the day before the national Thanksgiving celebration in Canada, and many will agree that expressing gratitude is central to the family gatherings and sumptuous meals.

As we celebrate the Harvest, and Canadian Thanksgiving, here are three perspectives that offer us food for thought:

In a CBC programme about the link between Truth and Reconciliation and Thanksgiving, Theresa Sims, the elder and cultural language specialist at Ska:na Family Learning Centre in Windsor said, "We always celebrated the harvest and what creation has provided for us. Mother Nature has provided everything that we need, but we have to learn how to respect it and care for it, and also keep it for the next seven generations."

(<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/windsor-indigenous-thanksgiving-traditions-1.6202534>)

The Valley has agricultural workers from overseas working on local farms. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture's website includes the following information, "When Canadians cannot be found, farmers use the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) or other Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) streams to get the workers they need for their businesses. Without sufficient labour, farms aren't able to operate effectively for the proper care of live animals and plants. International workers are essential to the production of food in Canada and have been for over 50 years. Many workers come back to the same farm for many years, some as long as 40 years. Over those years, they gain important and specific production knowledge and are relied on as Canadian trained and experienced workers that support the success and quality of Canada's food supply."
(<https://farmworktofeedcanada.ca/scotia-horticultural-congress/>)

The Hebrew Scriptures speak of a tradition in which farmers, in thanksgiving for the gifts of God, offer some produce of the harvest, often the very first crops that are harvested, in rituals of thanksgiving.

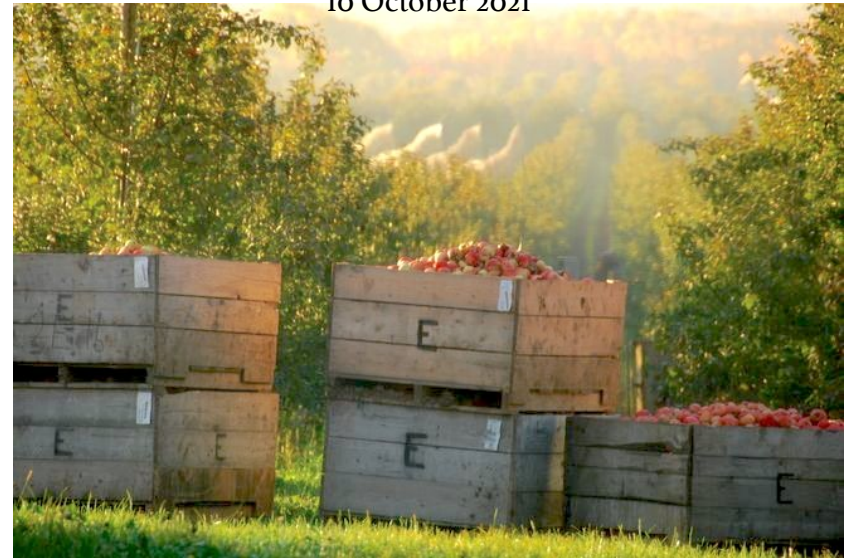
"Honor the Lord with your substance
and with the first fruits of all your produce;
then your barns will be filled with plenty,
and your vats will be bursting with wine." (Proverbs 3: 9, 10)

What does this season of Harvest and Thanksgiving celebrations mean to you?

Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis

MANNING MEMORIAL CHAPEL

10 October 2021



ACADIA UNIVERSITY

University Chaplain: Rev'd. Dr. Marjorie Lewis

Chapel Organist: Mr. John M. Scott



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Please note - masks are to be worn for the duration of the service, and we ask that you tap your Uni. ID at the contact tracing box in the narthex.

Organ Prelude

Call to Worship:

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

(Psalm 67:1-3)

Opening Hymn: *Praise and thanksgiving*

272

(BUNESSAB)

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Sung Response (3x)

Words and Music:
The Sisters of the Community of Grandchamp, Switzerland

Come, Light, Light of God, o'er - whelm all cre - a - tion,
En - light - en our hearts; let your light dwell with us.

Reading: *Joel 2: 21-27*

Psalm 126 *sung by the Choir* Tone I.I

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 6: 25-33* *The Chaplain*

SERMON: HARVEST OF HOPE

Hymn: *For the fruits of his creation* **254**
(AR HYD Y NOS)

Sacrament of Holy Communion
please see included insert for Communion liturgy

Prayer of Dedication:

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (Luke 6:38)

Presentation of the Offering: (Doxology)

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise
Him a - bove, ye heav - enly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Notices

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Closing Hymn: *Now thank we all our God*

530
(NUN DANKET)

Sending Forth and Benediction:

Go from this place,
letting your anxious worries cease.
May the lilies of the field and birds of the air
inspire you to see God in all you do.

May the blessing of Jesus, who announced God’s righteousness, of the
Creator, who fills Earth with beauty, and of the Spirit, who nurtures awe,
bless, inspire, and empower you. Amen.

Organ Postlude *Marche Triomphal: Nun Danket Alle Gott*
S. Karg-Ellert

