

# Pray with us this Harvest



**A selection of prayers and creative prayer ideas to use in your Harvest service.**

---

## **Ethiopian prayer**

God we bless you,  
show your grace upon us.

When God showed his greatness to Moses,  
the bush burned with fire and was  
not consumed.

We praise you for your wonderful greatness,  
O God,  
show your grace and your greatness to us.

We pray for our church.  
We pray for others.  
We pray for all people.

We fight against evil.  
Christians do not fight with guns  
our gun is prayer.

Send us your truth O God.  
Get all the bad out of us.  
Let peace come to us.

Send us today's message.  
May your Holy Spirit teach us.

Come to us O God,  
come in the name of Jesus  
come with your Holy Spirit,  
again and again.  
Amen.

*Adapted from a prayer recorded in an Ethiopian church,  
by Christian Aid.*

## **A prayer of thanksgiving**

God of all time,  
we give thanks for women  
past and present, far and near  
who turn the soil, sow the seeds  
and reap a harvest of community.  
May they be an example for us.

We give thanks for Mary, Joanna and Susanna,  
names we barely recognise,  
women who lived in a different time to ours,  
who came together to support and provide  
from their own resources.  
They helped Jesus continue with his ministry,  
proclaiming and bringing the good news,  
so their community could grow and thrive.  
May they be an example for us.

We give thanks for Ari, Aster and Aberash,  
names we do not recognise,  
women who live in a different place to ours,  
who come together to support and provide  
from their own resources.  
Savings schemes  
to make dreams possible,  
loans to cover medical bills,  
renewable energy solutions,  
so their community can grow and thrive.  
May they be an example for us.

We give thanks for the women who come  
to our minds,  
the names that we know so well...

who live with us and have gone before us  
who have, together, supported and provided  
from their own resources.

They bring their skills and talents  
to hold us together  
as a community that grows and thrives.  
May they be an example to us.

We give thanks for women  
who come together across the world  
enabling communities to grow and thrive.  
Thanks be to God,  
Amen.

### **Thanksgiving for light**

Light of the world,  
we give thanks for the solar lamps  
brightening the futures of children in Ethiopia,  
no longer having to strain their eyes  
to read and do homework  
by the smoky light of woodfires.

We give thanks for the solar hub  
providing a source of income for women  
no longer having to strain to make ends meet,  
creating a centre for support and hope  
where community thrives.

We give thanks for solar power  
for the clean and safe energy it provides  
for the reduction in deforestation  
for the increased opportunities,  
we give you a harvest of thanks and praise.

We give thanks for women's hubs  
shining a light in the world.  
Harvesting the sun can empower dreams.  
We come together with our sisters – together  
we're powerful.  
Thanks be to God,  
Amen.

### **Lament and petition**

Not so safely gathered in  
in recent years,  
climate change, human greed,  
floods and drought and disease  
have taken their toll.

God of creation,  
as we sing the joyful hymns  
and admire the Harvest display,  
give us compassion  
and understanding  
which moves beyond our dismay  
at the increased prices in our shops,  
into prayer and active concern  
for those whose livelihoods depend  
on the harvest  
in all its forms.

*(c) Carolyn Morris, from Acorns and Archangels,,  
Wild Goose Publications.*

### **The Harvest prayer**

God of justice,  
you call us to stand together,  
to walk side by side,  
to share ideas, dreams and burdens –  
to work together for a just harvest of your  
good gifts.  
Together, we have the power to grow hope,  
to plant seeds that yield a better future.  
This season, we pray with our global family.  
May we embrace the gift of each other –  
and walk side by side with our  
sisters and brothers  
to bring about change.  
Together, we're stronger.  
May we offer our gifts this season,

# Pray with us this Harvest

Harvest  
2018

## Creative prayer ideas

### Finding Ethiopia

**Bring along a world map or globe to share with your prayer group. Point to where Ethiopia is on the map, and ask people to draw a rough outline of it on a piece of paper.**

Ethiopia has one of the world's fastest-growing populations and is the second most populous country in Africa.

Write a prayer of thanksgiving, in the outline map of Ethiopia, for one of the things Christian Aid partners are helping communities with there:

- growing food
- getting access to health care
- campaigning for a good government
- working for fair trade and economic justice
- using sustainable and clean energy solutions
- empowering women to stand together for change.

Take a moment to silently pray for our partners to be encouraged, sustained and to have enough resources to do their incredible work.



### Healing leaves

**Provide a bowl of autumn leaves, some glue, and an outline of a tree trunk and branches on a large piece of paper.**

Aberash takes strength from being a part of a women's group. But she didn't always feel this way. 'In the past, there were so many challenges,' she says. 'It was hard to feed my children. Sometimes we ate the leaves of trees during the hard times.'

'The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.' Revelations 22:2

Take a leaf and stick it on the tree, as you do so pray for Aberash and all the mothers in Ethiopia and locally who have struggled to feed their children. Pray for justice so that one day we will live in a world where no one goes hungry. Give thanks for the healing the community is bringing to Aberash and her sisters. Pray that we would all continue to stand together, as strong as trees, to work for change.



# Creative prayer ideas

## Survival tool

### Provide blankets and/or survival bags.

Wrap a blanket or survival bag around you as you read these words from Ari, who is a member of one of the women's groups in Ethiopia.

'As a survival tool we pray together, us women and those of us in the church, we live for one another. If one of them is sick, we as members will help them and each other. The problem of one member is the problem of us all and we are going to solve that problem together.'

Give thanks for how the women's groups in Ethiopia gather around each other, wrapping each other in support and care. Give thanks for all those who surround you, looking out for and helping you. And consider who you might surround and help in your community. Give thanks for the survival tool of prayer. Pour out your own heart to God in prayer, knowing you are surrounded by the love of God, like a blanket.



## The power of the sun

### Preparation: Prepare a selection of sunglasses and sunscreen.

Put on a pair of the sunglasses and rub a little sunscreen into the back of your hands. Imagine the brightness and heat of the sun. This may take some imagination!

Give thanks to God for the incredible power of the sun. For it's reliable presence even when we can't always see or feel it.

Give thanks for how the power of the sun has empowered women in Ethiopia to open a solar-powered shop and has provided solar light for their children to do their homework.

Give thanks for the Christian Aid Breaking the Barriers programme in Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Malawi and Honduras and how it is empowering communities to stand up to climate change.