

**CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2017 6.30PM
WORSHIP TO INCLUDE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Notices and welcome by the Steward

Call to worship - Psalm 134

Hymn 115 Praise ye the Lord!

Creator God, Source of Life,
we lift our thanks to you in this season of autumn
The bounty of the earth belongs to you,
the fields that ripen in the sun give praise to your name.

**For the colours of the autumn,
the sharpening wind,
the gathering in of all that nourishes us,
We give you thanks,
We hold the blessings you give us in trust
and praise you, good provider,
for our lives, our homes,
and all that we share.**

Gracious, Giving God, you have created us so that we may find rest from our labours,
so that we may find space to spend time with you.

Silence

We come aware of God's love and aware of our own failings

Silence

Prayer said together
**As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever. Amen.**

Bible readings

Ecclesiastes 3 v 1-5 read by

For everything there is a season, a right time for every intention under heaven — a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to throw stones and a time to gather stones, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up searching.

Matthew 11 v 28-30

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

John 12 v ²⁴⁻²⁵

Jesus said ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Hymn 144 Here are my thoughts

3 reflections with silence and a prayer in between each of them and I will send some picture for the screen

1. Balancing Darkness with Light

2. Letting Go

3. Acknowledging Impermanence

A PRAYER FOR AUTUMN DAYS - adapted from Joyce Rupp

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising. We need your grace and courage to enter into the conversion process.

God of Autumn, the trees are saying their goodbyes to green, letting go of what has been. We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk-taking. Help us to let go.

God of fallen leaves that lay in coloured patterns upon the ground, our lives have their own particular patterns of growth. We need to see the connections.

God of misty days and harvest-moon nights, help us to see that there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, there are many gifts of growth within this season of surrender. Harvest must be waited for in faith and hope. Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going South for another season, it is wisdom which enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

God of graciousness, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all of this, we are grateful.

As we experience the season of Autumn, may we allow it to speak to us of necessary change and growth and of preparation for seasons that lie beyond the Winter. Grant us an openness to the continuous process of letting go and moving on, which is part of our human condition. We know that you are our faithful companion on this journey. **Amen.**

Hymn 116 Sing for God's glory that colours the dawn of creation during which the offering is brought up

Dedication of Offering

Prayers for others to include

The Church is full of people
in the Autumn of their years.
Some have led colourful lives
leaves bronzed and golden
through exposure to the elements
their appearance the centre of attention.
Others have been exposed
to more extreme conditions
branches bowed and scarred.
Some go unnoticed,
yet stand tall and steadfast
against wind and rain.
All have a story to tell
all can offer support and shelter

for saplings which grow beneath
their leafy canopy.

http://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers_Autumn.htm#ixzz4vmPA3rhx

Night Vigil (Ancient Christian Prayer) said together
**Watch thou, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight,
and give thine angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend thy sick ones, Lord Christ.
Rest thy weary ones.
Bless thy dying ones.
Soothe thy suffering ones.
Pity thine afflicted ones.
Shield thy joyous ones.
And all, for thy love's sake.
Amen. *Saint Augustine of Hippo (4th Century, North Africa)***

Gracious Giving God you have created us so that we may find rest from our labours,
So that we may find space to spend time with you
As the days shorten and our earth here prepares for the sleep of winter,
So we turn to you searching for Peace.

Aware of our need of Peace and symbolic of our desire to work for peace in your World, we now share with
one another the Peace of Christ.
L The Peace of Christ be always with you
P And also with you

Hymn 581 Come my table is a meeting place

We stay seated

L Lift up your hearts
P We lift them up to Christ

L Let us give thanks to our Redeemer
P It is right to give our thanks and praise

Creator God, Source of Life,
In thanksgiving we join together in the song of eternal praise
**Holy Holy Holy one, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Glory be to you O God most high.
Blessed is the One who come in the name of the Saviour.
Hosanna in the highest!**

L We praise you for the presence of your Holy Spirit
Who teaches us to combine labour with rest
Who brings us the cycles of time and season
Who sustains us when we are in need
P For all your good gifts we praise your holy name

L We turn to the table of bounty and sustenance in the name of our Saviour
By the death and resurrection and ascension of Jesus our Redeemer
Through the sharing of this bread and wine
Gifts of your creation
P May we be created anew

L As we hear the words in which Christ invited his disciples to take bread and wine and to remember him always, we give thanks for all that Christ has done for our sake

Luke 22 v 14-20 read by

L Send your Holy Spirit on this bread and this wine that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Saviour

P Bless our communion with one another. Draw us closer into your presence, O Loving God

THE LORD'S PRAYER said together - modern form

The elements will be distributed

This is the body of Christ given for you, eat in remembrance of Him

Drink from this cup of the new covenant in his blood and be thankful

We pray together:

Source of plenty, may our sharing become sharing with the whole world

May our blessing become blessing for the world

May our lives become living assurance of your presence in the world. Amen.

Hymn 146 Now that evening falls

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. Grant us insight and vision.

God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.

God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, we are grateful. Amen

The Grace said together.