Beacon Community Church – Welcomes you to our Harvest Thanksgiving service! Whether in person in church, or on Zoom or Facebook. We also welcome Cath and Angus to lead our worship as well as sing to us, bringing everything together in thanksgiving Praise to God at this very precious time.

**40 years and still happily serving the Lord!**

Pastor Paul – to open

Prayer

Reading – 1 Peter 3: 13 -18

**13**Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good?

**14**But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don’t worry or be afraid of their threats.

**15**Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

**16**But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

**17**Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

**18**Christ sufferedfor our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

Cath & Angus (10 -15 mins)

Message Pastor Paul (15 mins)

Cath & Angus (10 -15 mins)

Closing Prayer

**Harvest thanksgiving has a twofold message!**

**Thanking God for His faithfulness!**

**Reflecting on needs of Harvest around us!**

We need to be made holy by being pruned from worldly things that drag us backwards in our walk with God and relying on Christ and Gods Holy Spirit to strengthen us for the harvest field – or else we rot and die.

Fall is in the air, leaves are changing colour, the air is getting crisper, you can get spiced coffee drinks from your favourite Coffee houses.

Autumn – Harvest is my favourite time of year, growing up in what was then a sleepy village in North Wales Harvest times filled the church with autumn colours, more food than could ever be presented – Bales of Hay & Straw the smells are still with me, then there is the Bread being cooked at home - smells rising!

**Thanking God for Gods faithfulness.**

Bread is formidable example in Scripture, Wheat and barley must be harvested for the flour to be made!

Jesus, we know from Communion likens himself to bread - He is the bread of our lives. John 6:35

Bread cannot be produced without harvesting the ingredients

Back in Ezekiel chapter 4 God tells Ezekiel to bake bread in a manner to teach the children of Israel and us a lesson. Verse 9 -11 talks about the ingredients, the quantity and length of time it will last. Then Wait for it v12 How to cook it – in front of all the people using Human Dung for fuel.

Then you must eat that bread – to show how you have defiled the Lord.

God later relented allowing them to cook the bread with Cow’s Dung for fuel. V 15

Wow I am so glad we have electric/gas.

But let’s learn Gods lessons well! I can’t imagine going down the road, the Israelites had to!

Wheat – needs to be cut and thrashed then ground down in to flour before we can make bread. All other ingredients have to be changed in some way to be useful Yeast, water etc.

Jesus goes a little further, in John Chapter 4 after dealing with the Samaritan lady the disciples urged Jesus to eat something – I have food to eat that you know nothing about.

Then comes verse 37-38 You know the saying, ‘One plants and another harvests.’ And it’s true. I sent you to harvest where you didn’t plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest.

There must be a harvest to produce Bread. Jesus was hewn down, hung on a pagan cross to demonstrates Gods love for a lost World, to become the bread of our lives.

**Reflecting on needs of Harvest around us!**

Then we know only too well, in [Matthew 9:37](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%209%3A37&version=NLT)

Jesus said to his disciples, “**The** **harvest** is great, but **the** workers are few

So harvest is all about Thanking God for His faithfulness – its also about us working hard to reach out and harvest!

Partaking in communion we break bread and eat, Jesus tells us this is my body which is given for you, share it amongst yourselves!

Then comes the great commission – Matt 28:19 -20

**19**Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **20**Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Our duty is to serve!

Oh, the Joy of service and there’s plenty room for more!

The harvest is greater now than perhaps ever before, the challenges are great, but the opportunities are greater.

A huge step to take each day, is to ask God to give us an opportunity, each day, to give an answer when questioned of the hope we have in God!

It’s a tested practice for it comes from scripture. 1 Peter 3:15 you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

The Context of this message is powerful – verses 13 - 18 we read at the beginning!

The full circle of Harvest – The Bread of life Jesus – Commissioning us to go out and make disciples – and the harvest keeps on giving – for those new disciples have the same commission!

Now lets never Forget Gods goodness provided for us daily! And we have a part to play in the harvest of souls for the kingdom of God, by seeking to serve Him in the harvest field.

Hymns that we all know so well – all creatures of our God and king. All good gifts around us, All things bright and beautiful, Bringing in the sheaves, Bountiful Harvest, Great is Thy faithfulness, How great Thou Art - all focus on Jesus sacrifice and our duty of service to go out and serve!

Amen

Notices –

Monday - 2pm Friendship Group.

* 4:30pm Bids Family time
* 8pm Prayer time on Zoom

Tuesday – 6:30pm Pilates

Sunday 26th 10:45am Morning Worship Pastor Paul

Monday - 2pm Friendship Group.

* 4:30pm Bids Family time
* 8pm Prayer time on Zoom

Tuesday – 6:30pm Pilates

Thursday 30th 10:30am Service of loving memory for Eric Blakey

Sunday October 3rd 10:45am Pastor Paul “Communion”