



Plough Sunday Service

St Swithun's Natley Scures



WELCOME, NOTICES AND OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

1. All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing:
 alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:
 *O praise him, O praise him,
 alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*
2. Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
 alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:
 O praise him ...
3. Dear mother earth, who day by day
 unfoldest blessings on our way,
 O praise him, alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:
 O praise him ...
4. Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
 O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
 O praise him ...

THE GREETING

A Farmer: We come as representatives of the local farming community
to offer our work to the service of God.

Leader: We gather in the name of God the Father, who created us all –
people, animals and all the earth.

VERSES FROM PSALM 10 *(we say the words in dark print all together)*

Praise the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God you are very great:

**You are clothed with splendour and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.**

You make the clouds your chariot,
you ride on the wings of the wind.

**You make winds your messengers,
flames of fire your ministers.**

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills, giving drink to every creature.

**You cause grass to grow for cattle
and plants for man to cultivate,**

to bring forth food from the earth
and wine to gladden the human heart,

**oil to make the face shine
and bread to strengthen the human heart.**

The moon marks off the seasons,
and the sun knows when to go down.

**You bring darkness, it becomes night,
and all the beasts of the forest come creeping out.**

The sun rises and they steal away;
they return to lie down in their dens.

**Then people go out to their work
to their labour until evening time.**

How many are your works O Lord!

**In wisdom you have made them all;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

PRAYER

Loving Father God, thank you for working through our hands and our minds, as we go about our work day by day. Help us to feel reverence for the power you give us and to love that small part of your great creation which you have entrusted to each one of us. **Amen.**

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

When we are ungrateful for the rain and sun and frost
and forget that they are God's gifts to us:

O God, forgive us.

When we are blind to the mystery of germination
and forget it is God's handiwork

O God forgive us.

When we are careless with our animals
and forget they are God's creatures

O God forgive us.

When we are unkind to those that work with us
and forget they are God's children

O God forgive us.

When we are careless about our work
and forget we are God's co-workers

O God forgive us.

When we ill-treat the land
and forget we are God's stewards

O God forgive us.

WE RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

*Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:

Lord of all ...

3. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above;
pleasures pure and undefiled:

Lord of all ...

4. For each perfect gift of thine,
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

Lord of all ...

5. For thy Church which evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love:

Lord of all ...

THE BIBLE READING *Matthew 13: 1-9*

BLESSING OF THE SOIL *The soil to be blessed is placed on the altar*

O Lord we bring before you this soil,
Teeming with the life of tiny creatures, full of nutrients and goodness.
Without soil no life would exist upon the earth.
By it we are nourished and to it we shall return.
Creator God, maker of all that is,
We offer this soil to you.
We praise you for its marvellous and intricate creation.
Help us to reverence and respect the humble soil
as your chosen means of feeding and providing for us.
Bless this soil and all the soil around us,
in fields and gardens,
on hills and in woodlands,
so that the whole earth gives glory to you
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN

Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

BLESSING OF THE PLOUGH – *we all move to the door or outside the church*

- Speaker 1 The plough is the foundation of our work
and a symbol of our labour.
- Speaker 2 For the soil to be broken up and the seed sown
we must first plough the fields.
- Speaker 3 for the corn to grow and the ripe grain to be reaped
we must first plough the fields
- Speaker 1 For the bread to be baked and the people fed
we must first plough the fields.
- Speaker 2 For prosperity to come to our farms and our families
we must first plough the fields.
- Speaker 3 So we bring this ploughshare here
for you to give your blessing upon it
and upon all the work done on our farms.
- Speaker 1 God speed the plough:
the plough and the ploughman
the farm and the farmer.

Speaker 2 God speed the plough:
the beam and the mouldboard,
the land slides and the wings
the points, sheres and the disc coulters

Speaker 3 God speed the plough:
in fair weather and foul,
in rain and in wind,
in frost and in sunshine:
God speed the plough.

Let us pray:

We ask your blessing Father God on this plough and on all the machines that enable us to work upon your land. We ask you to prosper and bless throughout the year the work of our farmers that their hopes may be fulfilled with a plentiful harvest and that the people may be fed with wholesome food: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:
he sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft, refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.*

He only is the maker of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower, he lights the evening star;
he fills the earth with beauty, by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children, he gives our daily bread.

All good gifts ...

We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
the seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.

Accept the gifts we offer for all thy love imparts,
and, what thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.

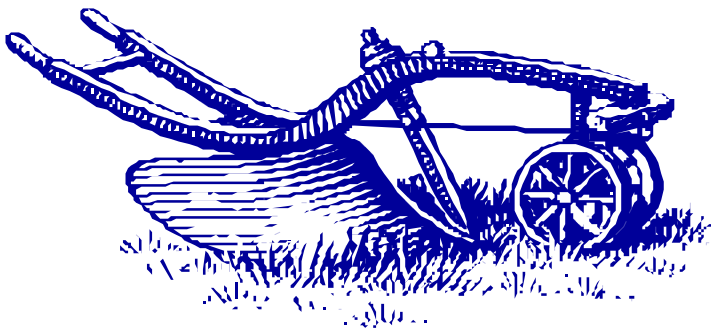
All good gifts ...

THE BLESSING

*The service will be followed by lunch
in the Tea Barn opposite the church*

*If you are not able to stay for lunch
you are very welcome to join us
for a pre-lunch drink or coffee*

*The collection today will be shared with
The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution
(R.A.B.I.)*



St Swithun's Church

Nately Scures

www.stswithunnatelyscures.org.uk



The United Parish of Newnham with Nately Scures with Mapledurwell with Up Nately with Greywell

**Journeying together,
we worship God and serve the community**

Our Mission is to:

- ✚ work together to grow God's kingdom**
- ✚ reach out to the whole community to share His love**
- ✚ be inclusive, relevant and Christlike**