

# Thanksgiving for the Countryside and Bees



*Hymn numbers taken from Hymns Old and New (New Anglican Edition 1996)*

## **Welcome**

**Hymn:** Awake My Soul (HO&N 50)

## **Rural Litany**

God the Father

**Have mercy on us**

God the Son:

**Have mercy on us**

God the Holy Spirit

**Have mercy on us**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity

**Have mercy on us**

For destruction of trees that hold their arms to heaven,  
For the loss of hedges that shelter bird and insect,  
For the pollution of water giving life to many:

**Forgive us, Lord.**

For the greediness that devours earth's resources,  
For the wastefulness that fills the earth with rubbish,  
For the loss of beauty through our carelessness:

**Forgive us, Lord.**

For the selfishness that calls no person neighbour,  
For the exclusiveness that shuts some people out,  
For the heedlessness of rural isolation:

**Forgive us, Lord.**

For mistreatment of your creatures, great and small,  
For lack of reverence in guarding your creation,  
For denying time and space in which to praise you:

**Forgive us, Lord.**

From the frost that blights the blossom on the bough,  
From the drought that withers plants in field and garden.  
From the storm that batters down the standing crops:

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

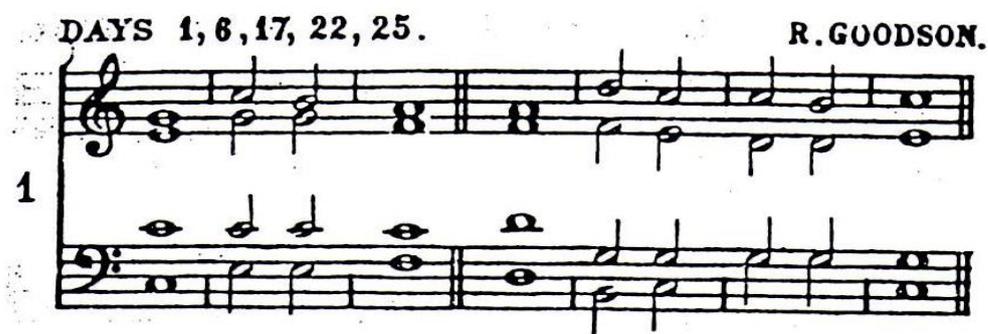
From creeping thistle, dock and nettle,  
From poisonous ragwort spread o'er hill and wayside,  
From plague of flying or of creeping things:  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From hostility appearing between neighbours  
From mistrust between the followers of Christ  
From strife arising amid cliques and factions:  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From disease that strikes unseen at man or beast,  
From tragedy that saddens and divides,  
From sudden injury or sudden death:  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

### Venite, Exultemus Domino

DAYS 1, 6, 17, 22, 25. R. GOODSON.



1. O COME let us' sing unto the' Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the' strength of' our sal'vation.
2. Let us come before his' presence with' thanksgiving: and show ourselves' glad in' him with' psalms.
3. For the Lord is a' great' God: and a great' King above' all' gods.
4. In his hand are all the' corners of the' earth: and the strength of the' hills is' his' also.
5. The sea is his, and' he' made it: and his hands pre'pared the' dry' land.
6. O come, let us worship and' fall' down: and kneel be'fore the' Lord our' Maker.
7. For he is the' Lord our' God: and we are the people of his pasture, and the' sheep of' his hand.
8. To day if ye will hear his voice, harden' not your hearts: as in the provocation, and as in the day of temp'tation' in the' wilderness;
9. When your' fathers' tempted' me: 'proved me, and' saw my' works.
10. Forty years long was I grieved with this gene'ration, and' said: It is a people that do err in their hearts, for they' have not' known my' ways.
11. Unto whom I' sware in my' wrath: that they should not' enter' into my' rest.

Glory be to the Father, and' to the' Son: and' to the' Holy' Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and' ever' shall be: world without' end'. A'men.

### **Reading** – from Psalm 19

### **Hymn** – Lord of the boundless curves of space (tune; Amazing Grace)

1. Lord of the boundless curves of space,  
and time's deep mystery;  
to thy creative might we trace  
the fount of energy

2. Thy mind conceived the galaxy,  
the atom's secret planned;  
and every age of history  
thy purpose, Lord, has spanned.

3. Thy Spirit gave the living cell  
its hidden vital force;  
the instincts which all life impel  
derive from thee their source.

4. Thine is the image stamped on man,  
though marred by man's own sin;  
and thine the liberating plan  
devised his soul to win.

5. Science explores thy reason's ways,  
but faith draws near thy heart;  
and in the face of Christ we gaze  
upon the Love thou art

6. Give us to know your truth, but more,  
the strength to do your will;  
until the love our souls adore  
shall all our being fill.

### **Benedicite, Ominia Opera**

O ALL ye Works of the Lord, O ye Angels of the Lord, O ye Heavens, bless ye the Lord: praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Waters that be above the Firmament, O all ye Powers of the Lord, O ye Sun and Moon, bless ye the Lord: praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Stars of Heaven, O ye Showers and Dew, O ye Winds of God, bless ye the Lord: praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Fire and Heat, O ye Winter and Summer, O ye Dews and Frosts, bless ye the Lord: praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Frost and Cold, O ye Ice and Snow, O ye Nights and Days, bless ye the Lord: praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Light and Darkness, O ye Lightnings and Clouds, O let the Earth bless the Lord: yea, let it praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Mountains and Hills, O all ye Green Things upon the Earth, O ye Wells, bless ye the Lord: praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Seas and Floods, O ye Whales, and all that move in the Waters, O all ye Fowls of the Air, bless ye the Lord: praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O all ye Beasts and Cattle, O ye Children of Men, O let Israel bless the Lord: praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Priests of the Lord, O ye Servants of the Lord, O ye Spirits and Souls of the Righteous, bless ye the Lord: praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye holy and humble Men of heart, O Ananias, Azarias, and Misael, bless ye the Lord: praise him, and magnify him for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. **Amen.**

**Reading:** *Matthew 6:25-34*

**Hymn:** Thou whose almighty Word

1. Thou, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and, where the Gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light!

2. Thou who didst come to bring  
on thy redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
heal to the sick in mind,  
sight to the in-ly blind,  
now to all humankind,  
let there be light!

3. Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving holy Dove,  
speed forth thy flight!  
Move on the waters' face  
bearing the gifts of grace,  
and, in earth's darkest place,  
let there be light!

4. Holy and blessed Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might;  
boundless as ocean's tide,  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide,  
let there be light!

**Talk:** The importance of bees

## Prayers

**Reading:** *Extract from Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet*

**Hymn:** All creatures of our God and King (HO&N 9)

## Blessing

May God who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the sky, who creates the flowers that feed the bees that feed us, may God change us to reflect his glory and may the blessing...

**Amen**

## Virgil's Bees by Carol Ann Duffy

Bless air's gift of sweetness, honey  
from the bees, inspired by clover,  
marigold, eucalyptus, thyme,  
the hundred perfumes of the wind.  
Bless the beekeeper

who chooses for her hives  
a site near water, violet beds, no yew,  
no echo. Let the light lilt, leak, green  
or gold, pigment for queens,  
and joy be inexplicable but there  
in harmony of willowherb and stream,  
of summer heat and breeze,  
each bee's body

at its brilliant flower, lover-stunned,  
strumming on fragrance, smitten.

For this,  
let gardens grow, where beelines end,  
sighing in roses, saffron blooms, buddleia;  
where bees pray on their knees, sing, praise  
in pear trees, plum trees; bees  
are the batteries of orchards, gardens, guard them.

*With thanks to Rev Sian Harris*