

Prayers for Farming

Sunday May 3, 2020 @ 7pm

Zoom link and phone number:

Words of Welcome: (by Dayna or Chad)

We begin by affirming Our World Belongs to God, our work as a tool to care for the world and we lament the way sin and hurt our world:

From: Our World Belongs to God.

48. Our work is a calling from God.

We work for more than wages
and manage for more than profit
so that mutual respect
and the just use of goods and skills
may shape the workplace.

While we earn or profit,
we love our neighbors by providing
useful products and services.

In our global economy
we advocate meaningful work
and fair wages for all.

Out of the Lord's generosity to us,
we give freely and gladly
of our money and time.

51. We lament that our abuse of creation
has brought lasting damage

to the world we have been given:

polluting streams and soil,
poisoning the air,
altering the climate,
and damaging the earth.

We commit ourselves
to honor all God's creatures
and to protect them from abuse and extinction,
for our world belongs to God.

Scripture: Psalm 104:14-33

Offering our thanks

Creator God, we thank you for your awesome creation,
for the seed, the soil, the water, the animals, the seasons of the year
and the cycle of nature.
For beauty, food and life abundant.

Thank you for food, for the continual growing of things,
the way you've provided for us in the past,
for the safe births of animals,
for the potential of land and seed.
For water and soil which help to regulate climate.
For work to do that not only cares for the land
but provides food for others.
We are grateful for this life we live in our bodies
and we honor you with our work.
We know you uphold the earth, providing what is necessary
and so we trust you again this season
for all that is needed for life and plants to grow. Amen.

Prayers:

Prayer for farmers, hired hands

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
In this prayer time we come before with our petitions for this
upcoming season.
We thank You for farmers Lord,
whom You gave the talents and gifts to grow our daily food.
You gave them the ability to work the soil,
to plant the seeds, to tend to the crops.
They wait and hope for enough rain and sunshine,
to grow the crop and to, Lord willing, harvest this crop.
Father we ask for patience for farmers, for trust in You, Faithful God.
Grant them physical and mental strength to conquer the long days,
to be good to their hired hands in this stressful time,
to manage well.
Bless farmers with trust in You Lord,
when black clouds darken the sky and the threat of thunder,

hard winds and hail, with possible damage to crops, are real.
Bless farmers when they work with their children and other family members,
grant each of them understanding, patience and harmony, especially in stressful times.

We thank you for hired hands,
who also work hard and tirelessly to get the work done,
to work long days, to work and understand the equipment they work with.

We ask you that you will grant the hired hands physical and emotional strength, to do the work they need to do,
to live in harmony with their bosses and their co-workers.

We pray for spouses, Father: the ones who help physically and the ones who work behind the scenes,
and are being supportive in other ways:
parts runs, bookkeeping, meals.

We pray for strength, wisdom and patience and understanding.
Father we lift them all up to You, knowing we are in Your hands.
Amen

Prayer for seeding, planting, Crops

Thank you God for Farmers.

For those who have touched the soil, who have known it intimately, the feel of it under their fingernails, the taste of it and the way it smells after the rain.

Father, you have given us this amazing world where so many things can be grown to feed humanity.

Thank you for the wonder of a tiny seed growing in rich soil that multiplies to a bountiful harvest of wheat, canola, barley, peas, alfalfa, corn, and potatoes.

As we approach this season of new growth in our fields we ask that you bless us with warm summer days and the moisture to grow our crops that can help feed our world.

God, there are those who have yet to finish last year's harvest. Please help them get their crop off quickly so they are able to plant in good time.

Give us strength, for the uncertainties like weather, disease, pests, markets- all these things that can make our work difficult.
Help us to see that you hold all of our work in your Hands.
All of our farming relies on the good earth and we pray for the earth today, too.
Help us to take care of it, help us to cherish it, and help us to pass it on safely to a new generation.
Lord, we want to be stewards of the land, growing crops, using fertilizers and pesticides, but doing so in a responsible manner, ensuring that our children and grandchildren will have the same opportunities we have had.
We ask those who make decisions that impact trade within this world to ensure that the wonderful harvest you bring us can be sold and processed to feed this hungry world.
Lord in this time of crisis, help us to fix and improve the supply chain so that the harvests you bless us with can be used to their full potential.
We are so thankful for the beautiful land you provide us with, it is your gift to us and we thank you.

Prayer for animals

Father as we bring our farmers and farming operations to you in prayer we want to specifically thank you for the domesticated animals that you have given to our care.
Thank you for dairy cows, beef cows, chickens, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, elk, bees, ducks, geese, turkeys and the other diverse animals which we raise for producing the food products that keep our communities strong and healthy.
We pray for all the animals in our care at this time that you would bless them, that you would watch over them as they give birth, as they grow and help them finish their lives well.
We pray that you would be with all of us that care for these animals. Help us to remember that they are living beings entrusted to our care that you care about.
We pray for wisdom and guidance as we care for them, that we would be able to give them a great life in exchange for the food they provide us.

We thank you that you allow us to earn our livings raising these animals and we ask that you would watch over us in these trying times, where packing plants have slowed down or stopped processing all together, where quota is being restricted and where there is the very real threat of not being able to sell our products when we need to.

We place the whole food system related to animals into your hands and recognize that you are in control.

Prayer for greenhouses

Our Father in Heaven, today we bring our appreciations and concerns for the local greenhouses in the Lacombe area. Vegetable and flower production grown under protection are also dependent on sunshine for photosynthesis, rain and snow to replenish water supplies needed for growing plants. These are all gifts from you!

We also give you thanks for those individuals and companies that specialize in producing insects that control problem insects in our crops. What a blessing it is to have discovered the diversity and balance you have created in our world. Thank you for bumble bees that work tirelessly pollinating our tomato plants and as a result we can enjoy well-formed, tasty produce. Thank you for the diversity of varieties we can grow in the greenhouses. Because of the protection from cold and elements we can supply fresh produce this time of the year.

We also lift up in prayer greenhouses that supply flowers and bedding plants. With all that is going on in the world today there has never been something more essential to people's well-being as experiencing the joy that bedding plants and flowers provide. The beauty we experience in the colours and shapes of plants may be a glimpse of what you have prepared for us in heaven.

In this time of uncertainty with all that is happening in respect to COVID-19 we ask for your presence and protection from this virus. Please bless the ways we use to keep workers and owners safe. Thank you for the workers who go about caring for the plants. For some it may be a seasonal work opportunity, for others a way of

providing income to families in far away countries, or maybe a summer job for a student. Father please give them rest from this time of anxiety.

Help the owners to see their place not so much as owners but as caregivers. And as caregivers in your creation we can be at peace realizing that we are part of a bigger plan as we care for people and plants. Please be with Aspen Greenhouses as the work with social distancing protocols that keep customers and staff safe. Also we pray for the health and well-being of the management and workers at Pik-N-Pak in their attempts to work in safe ways.

Father as some doors have closed for selling our produce you have opened other doors. For this we give you thanks! We also give you thanks that Farmers Markets in the cities have remained open. As food vendors it is very encouraging and humbling to experience the gratitude of customers who wait in line in and outside the market to purchase food. We also would like to lift up those vendors who have been classified as nonessential at this time and as a result have no income. As we go through this hard time, help us to realize you are Our Way, Maker, A Promise Keeper, Our Light in the Darkness.

Prayer for business related to agriculture and the economy

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we come before you humbled by what we do not control. We find ourselves in a difficult situation and we look to you for guidance and help. We do not know how long this coronavirus will affect our normal activities. We do not know what the future will look like. We come to you because you know what our future holds and we trust in you.

We bring before you the businesses which support and service the agricultural sector of our economy and we pray for your grace on them so that food can be available for our province. We bring to you the equipment suppliers, the repair shops, the trucking companies that transport raw materials to the farms, and the ones that take food to the processing plants, markets and stores, the truck washes

and tire shops, the meat-packing plants, the chemical and fertilizer processing plants, the grain processing facilities, the construction companies and the financial institutions.

Lord God, we think of the people involved in these businesses. We think of people who work in sales, people who work in parts departments and service departments, the line workers in abattoirs and food facilities, truck drivers, trades people, mechanics, admin personnel, veterinarians, quality inspectors, and financial administrators. There are many people who have an impact on our food supply and each one is living and working with the uncertainty of what the future holds. Will they have work? What will it look like? What will be different?

We pray, Lord God, that people will be able to continue to work so that they can provide for their families but also so that they can have joy in being part of what it takes to feed our province and country. We pray that as people work they will be safe from COVID 19. We pray that their workplaces will be able to provide work conditions that prevent the spread of this disease. We pray that you will grant supervisors and managers wisdom and compassion as they organize work in this time of caution. We pray for insights into how work is done and wisdom in designing new ways that will ensure the safety of all workers. We pray for those who work in financial institutions and must decide to whom they will loan money and how much. Grant them wisdom and bless their decisions.

Lord, grant us open ears and eyes to see when our coworkers are struggling socially, physically, mentally or spiritually. Lay on our hearts and minds the thoughts we need so that we will step forward to help wherever possible. May we be a mirror of your grace to those around us. Lord we trust in you. We know that all things are in your hands.

Song: Your Labor is Not in Vain (Will be played on the screen by Dayna)

<https://youtu.be/bPj3Kf7Dorw>

Blessing: (by Dayna or Chad)

God the Father, who created the world,
 give you grace to be wise stewards of his creation.
God the Son, who redeemed the world,
 inspire you to go out as labourers into his harvest.
God the Holy Spirit, whose breath fills the whole of creation,
 help you to bear his fruits of love, joy and peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation,
 and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in the peace of Christ.

You can stick around for a while to chat and share if you'd like. Otherwise, you're welcome to sign off at this time.