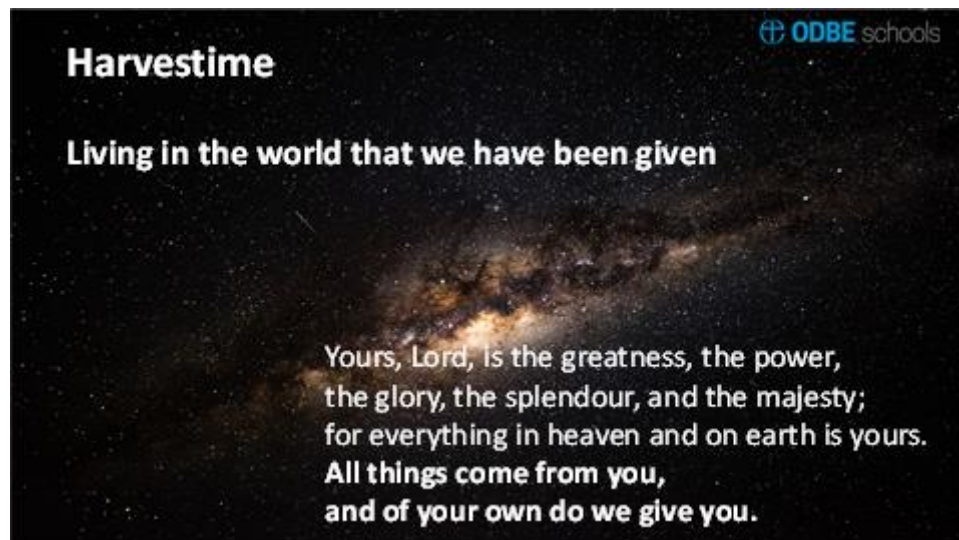


The Harvest Season/Creation worship

Session 1: Slide 1



The Christian prayer on this slide is used regularly in church services.

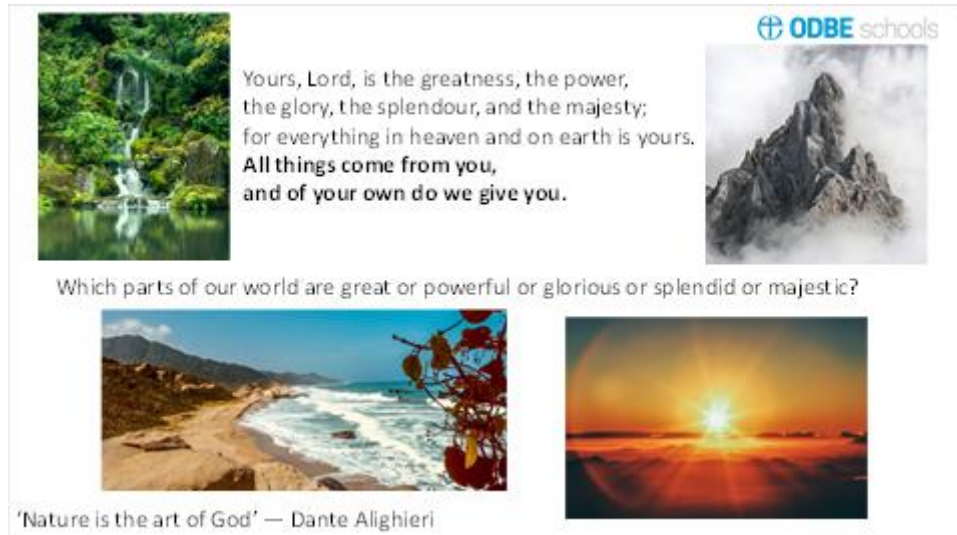
It is taken from the Old Testament and is an expression of the Christian faith in a God who is the creator of the whole world. These words can be found in 1 Chronicles 29: 11 in a prayer of King David.


Note that the creation story is not just about the Earth but all the stars and planets – the whole universe.



The prayer does not follow many of the usual patterns. It is a simple statement of praise. It is used in church services where it reminds everyone that even when we 'give' things to God, we are only, in effect, 'giving back'.

The Harvest Season/Creation worship



Session 1: Slide 2



 Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.

Which parts of our world are great or powerful or glorious or splendid or majestic?

'Nature is the art of God' — Dante Alighieri

Allow pupils to explore the question, possibly with partners or in groups. There may need to be some discussion of some of the words in the prayer. The pictures may aid the discussion.

Dante Alighieri wrote the famous *Divine Comedy*, not a children's book of course!

The Harvest Season/Creation worship

Session 1: Slide 3



The creation story in the Bible says ...

God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.

God's words are, in part, about harvest and what the newly created world can provide for those that live in it.

There are harvests *everywhere* in the world

Well pretty much – at least where people live

We mostly think of harvest as food, but there are other things that are harvested too

You may wish to discuss issues of environmental responsibility, but this does not form part of these sessions.

The Harvest Season/Creation worship

Session 1: Slide 4



There are harvests *everywhen* in the world too

We tend to look at the Autumn as harvest time but in our reflections we should be aware that Keats' season of 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' while romantic and delightful is not a complete image, for instance, of folk fishing in a tempestuous North Sea in the middle of winter!

Pupils might like to find out when winter vegetables are harvested, or find out more about the 'harvest' of game birds.

The Harvest Season/Creation worship

Session 1: Slide 5



Remember the prayer at the beginning – Christians believe that everything comes from God and that everything is a gift from God.

This is also the belief of other faiths – you may wish to invite parents or people from other faiths to talk about how they understand the world that we live in.


Of course, pupils may well be able to do this for themselves.

This slide encourages pupils to reflect on where things come from and possibly how they were harvested.

The first questions explore our preferences – this gives an opportunity to consider diversity.

The Harvest Season/Creation worship

Session 1: Slide 6



Litany of Creation


God commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of plants"
Plant prayers

God commanded, "Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and the air filled with birds."
Fish and bird prayers

God commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life"
Animal prayers

God created human beings and blessed them,
People prayers

God looked at everything and was very pleased.
Thank you prayer



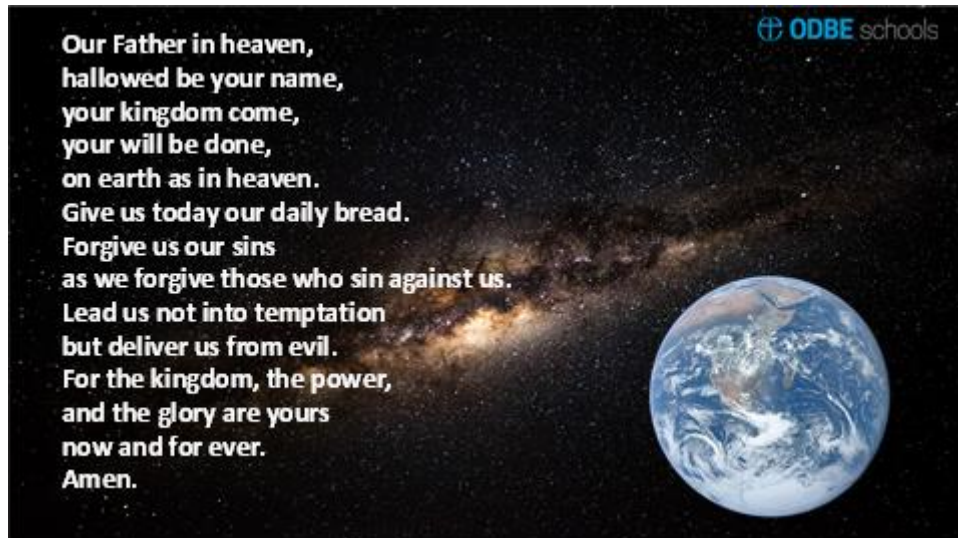
This slide presents an optional structure for prayer – see Developmental Prayer File page15* Pupils' own prayers (or perhaps parents' or staff prayers) should be inserted at the points in italics. This could be an opportunity to involve extemporary prayer or for silent prayer/reflection.

*<https://www.odbe.org.uk/content/pages/documents/collectiveworship-prayerfile-doc-202175554553377.pdf>

The slide can be omitted and replaced with other prayers if you wish.

The Harvest Season/Creation worship

Session 1: Slide 7



The Session closes with the Lord's Prayer