**Ploughman, ploughman, plough me a field, turn me an acre of land,**

**Ploughman, ploughman harrow the ground, drill in the seed and roll it**

**down,**

**For the year will turn, and the spring come round, and the seed will grow.**

**Shine the sun and rain the rain, fall the shivery snow,**

**Frost and hail and wind again, as the year will go.**

**Farmer, farmer, the field is ripe, tall and straight they stand.**

**Farmer, farmer, it’s time to reap, time to combine the corn to keep,**

**For the straw will blow, and the chaff will leap, and the grain will flow.**

**Shine the sun and rain the rain, fall the shivery snow,**

**Fog and sleet and hail again, as the year will go.**

**Miller, miller, take up the grain, pour it out like sand.**

**Miller, miller, open the rill, to turn the wheel and work the mill,**

**To grind the grain to flour, and fill the sacks below.**

**Shine the sun and rain the rain, fall the shivery snow,**

**Hail and wind and sleet again as the year will go.**

**Baker, baker, the flour is here, soft and fine and bland.**

**Baker, baker, get out of bed, put that silly old hat on your head,**

**Bake me a loaf of golden bread, and then I’ll go.**

**Blow the wind and rain the rain, fall the shivery snow,**

**Soon the sun will shine again, as the year will go.**

***The Welcome***

Be still  
Be attentive to the divine presence

(a silent pause is kept)

God of love and life

as the seasons move into Summer

**We come to you**

in the fullness of life

**We welcome your life giving Spirit**

as those made male and female in your image

**We welcome each other**

***Welcoming the God of the circle of the seasons***

God of the South and the warm breeze

**We call to you to be with us on our life’s journey**

God of the East and sun rising

**We call to you to bring us life renewed**

God of the North and the cold winds

**We call to you to be the warmth in our hearts**

God of the west and sun setting

**We call to you as the time of harvest approaches**

**Christ Jesus**

**Be the life within us**

**Be the love between us**

**Be the light that guides us**

**This day and for eternity**

***Reflection on the seed***

**What can I give him, poor as I am?**

**If I were a shepherd I would give a lamb**

**If I were a wise man I would do my part**

**But what I have I give him give my heart.**

**Unless a grain of wheat does fall into the ground and dies**

**It remains a single grain lest entombed in earth it lies**

**Those who seek to live for self will find their life in vain**

**But those who give their life in love will receive it back again**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say ‘behold I freely give’**

**The living water thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live’**

**I came to Jesus and I drank of that life giving stream**

**My thirst was quenched my soul revived and now I live in him**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say ‘I am this dark worlds light**

**Look unto me thy morn shall rise and all they day be bright’**

**I looked the Jesus and I found in him my star my sun**

**and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done**

***Sharing the harvest loaf***

**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**.

**Refrain:**

**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;**

**The winds and waves obey him, by him the birds are fed;**

**Much more to us, his children, he gives our daily bread.**

**Refrain**

**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.**

**Refrain**

***Departing and traveling further***

God of the South and the season of passing summer

**Bless us now with the warmth of Christ’s presence**

God of the East and the sun rising

**Bless us now through the rest of this day until tomorrow comes**

God of the North and the darkness of winter

**Bless us in the quiet times of reflection and waiting**

God of the West and the sun setting

**Bless us now with gifts of creation and with fruitful lives**

***Closing Blessing***

And May the blessing of the God of life and death

In whom the seasons grow and fade

In whom all of us are held in love

Our Father and Mother who made us

Our Brother Jesus who mends us

Our Sustainer the Spirit who moulds us

Be upon as at this time

And in all times to come

**West Midlands Forest Church**

**As Summer gives way to Autumn**

**An outdoor celebration**

**For**

**Lammas**

*(the first fruits of the harvest)*