

BLESSING FOR OUR FARMS, OUR FARM FAMILIES, OUR RURAL CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY

GATHERING SONG

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world: He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass; He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring! God reigns, let the earth be glad!

BLESSING

The Gift of Seed:

Seeds are about the past, the present, and the future. Seed is the fruit of a past harvest; they are ready to be planted in the present; in the future, they will bear fruit. May the miracle of life within the seed break forth and yield a bountiful harvest. Lord God, bless the seed, and all who plant it. **God gives us the seed, and entrusts it to our care.**

The Gift of Soil:

The soil is a home for the seed, nourishing and sustaining it. Soil sustains all of life, and is a precious resource. Bless the soil, O God, that it may support Your great gift of life. Bless all who work the soil, and care for it. **God created and entrusted the soil to our care.**

The Gift of Water:

Water gives sustenance and nourishment to the soil, the seed, and all life, with water in rain, rivers, ponds, lakes, and seas. Creator God, bless the water. Let it come as rain at the right time and the needed amount, so that the seed may flourish and grow, life will be sustained, and the harvest be bountiful. **God blesses us with water, and entrusts it to our care.**

The Gift of Livestock:

Livestock provide us with so much that we need and enjoy. God who made all living creatures, bless our livestock with good health, good living conditions, and careful management. May we care for the animals in our lives with humility and gratitude. **God gives us livestock, and entrusts them to our care.**

The Gift of Food:

God provides us with food to eat; food that looks and tastes so good; food that nourishes our bodies and souls. How blessed we are! May we receive food with gratitude, share generously, and treat food respectfully. **God blesses us with food to eat, and entrusts it to our care**

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The Gift of Machinery:

Tools and machines help us in our work. Tools are the result of the creativity and vision in the human mind and spirit. Tools can be used for great good in our work. Lord Jesus, who knew the feel of tools in His hands, bless the tractors and tools that we use on our farms. May we use them well, may we use them safely, and may all who work with tools and machines be kept safe in the seasons of planting and harvest. **God gives us tools and machines, and entrusts them to our wisdom.**

Creator God, majestic and mysterious, open our eyes to see what You have done and are doing, our minds to understand our dependency upon You for all life; and receive our gratitude for those who farm the land and care for land, plants, trees and livestock.

Lord, we are thankful for all our blessings in our rural community, our farms and gardens, the place we live in, the people we live with, and the church family we call home. May we rise and shine in the name of Jesus the Risen Lord, and bless this life with bold faith and courageous living, shining like stars in a dark sky. O Lord, restore hope in us all, throughout the earth and everything in it, for all, all of it, belongs to You. In Jesus name, we pray, AMEN!

CLOSING SONG

**Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow
gonna mulch it deep and low, gonna make it fertile ground**

*Inch by inch, row by row, God bless these seeds I sow;
Please keep them safe below 'Till the rain comes tumbling down.*

**Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones We are made of dreams and bones;
Found a place to call my own, A gift from God above. Inch by inch, row by row...**

**Grain for grain, sun and rain, this is God's creation chain,
with my body and my brain sing the music of the land. Inch by inch, row by row...**

**Plant your rows straight and long, season them with prayer and song;
The Lord above will make you strong, when you give earth loving care. Inch by inch...**

BLESSING

**Live clean, innocent lives as children of God.
In a world full of crooked and perverse people,
shine like stars in the night sky, as you hold firmly to the word of life.
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Philippians 2:15-16, Romans 15:13