



# Seasons

4 service outlines



produced by SCALLOP  
Methodist Churches



SHARNBROOK  
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PARK ROAD

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SCALLOP  
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Churches



## SCALLOP SEASONS SERVICES – for Local Worship

Adapt as appropriate!

### Material suggested for all four seasonal services

**Call to worship:** Hosea 6:3 (NIV)

Let us acknowledge the Lord, let us press on to acknowledge him.

As surely as the sun rises He will appear. He will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.

### A prayer

Thank you Lord for the seasons.

As we come to the end of the summer and look forward to the winter,

Or as we come to the end of the winter and look forward to the summer.

As we come to the end of the dry season and look forward to the rains, to the end of the wet season and look forward to the dry.

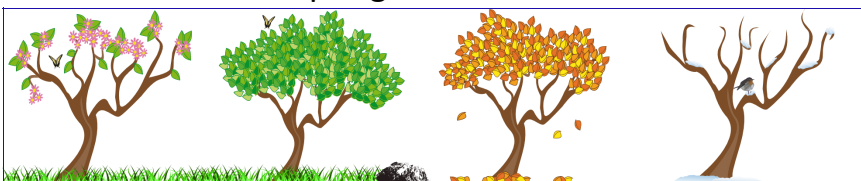
Wherever we are in the world, Lord, we thank you for this wonderful place where we live, with all its changing life and wonder.

Thank you for what makes our home so special, for the endless variety that you have made in this world that we call home

Amen

### Hymn

StF 617 O blessed spring



In thinking about our church and local community:

Are there people who are lonely or who have no friends or family living close by?

How could you befriend them and create a sense of belonging?

How can you help to reduce loneliness in your church and community?

### Flames and Icicles

Write thanksgiving prayers on flames to give thanks for the warm points of winter – Place in a fire bucket at the base of the tree.

Write prayers the icicles to pray for the “icy” situations in the wider world” – Add to the tree

### Growing in Secret

Plant bulbs, or beans in a jar, and nurture them in the dark over the winter until the roots can be seen, or the bulbs have sprouted.

Hymns – recommended options in bold, supporting texts in standard script

**StF610 Best of all is God is with us**

**StF612 God give us life**

StF109 In the homeless and the hungry

MHOAN689 Such love

StF693 MHOAN71 Beauty for brokenness

StF51 MHOAN280 Great is thy faithfulness

StF616 Lord, in our lonely hours

**StF492 MHOAN111 Christ be my leader**

StF792 Touch the earth lightly

**StF76 MHOAN227 Give me joy in my heart**

StF176 MHOAN 459 Like a candle flame

StF215 MHOAN656 See amid the winter snow

StF531 MHOAN785 What a friend we have in Jesus

StF248 MHOAN338 I heard the voice of Jesus say

**StF59 MHOAN486 Lord, the light of your love is shining**

### All Age activities

**Discussion:** (Adapted from Seasons of my Soul p87)

Isolation...

As Christians, we have responsibilities towards each other, those around us and the rest of the world. We are called to be inclusive, to offer hospitality, to maintain justice and to create a sense of belonging. No one should be lonely, yet the reality is that many people live alone and have very little contact with other people. This isolation can be heightened especially in the winter months.

# Spring



### Themes of other sessions:

Spring: HOPE

Summer: LIVING

Autumn: GROWING

Winter: WAITING

### Developing “The Tree”

Dress the ‘tree’ appropriately – **buds**, flowers, autumn leaves, bare branches

### Spring Theme: HOPE

When a sower sows he does not know what he will reap, however carefully he prepares.

We need to keep sowing or we will never be able to reap.

Notes:

snowdrops contain antifreeze so that they can survive as the first flowers of spring

aconites flower before they leaf

**Readings** – recommended options in bold, supporting texts in standard script

Psalm 64 vs 9-13

**Matthew 13:1-9;** the sower  
**24 – 30;** the weeds amongst the wheat  
**2 Cor 9: 6 -15** few seeds will give small crop

## **Prayers**

**Adoration** [David Clowes: 500 prayers for all occasions page 74; no.122 Some or all of]

Lord, we praise you for the way you far exceed the limits of our minds.

Your mercy takes our breath away and your love knows no bounds.

We praise you for your glory which is utterly beyond our imagining and for your goodness which sustains the whole universe.

We praise you for your majesty which leaves us speechless and your sovereignty which gives us courage.

We praise you that you are not simply one God among many but that you are the one and only true living God.

We praise you because you are the one who had no beginning and because you have no end.

Your power stretches from one end of eternity to the other.

let us give thanks for the mistakes we will make tomorrow.  
If we find them painful or a bit embarrassing we can remember that perfection means having no room for improvement, no need for anyone else, and who wants that?  
Let us be grateful, that God is still shaping us.

## **Prayers**

**Adoration**

**Thanksgiving prayers**

**Confession**

**Forgiveness**

**Intercessions**

Ice cube prayers: hold an ice cube in your hand. Pray for the cold places in your own life and in others.

You may like to include some topical issues

**The LORD'S PRAYER**

**Collection Prayer**

**A sending out prayer**

**Readings – recommended options in bold**, supporting texts in standard script

Psalm 74: 1-17

**2 Timothy 4: 6b – 18** Ending & beginning – Paul's final words to Timothy

**Mark 4: 26-29** Parable of the Growing Seed

Hymn to Imperfection (Seasons of the Soul p82 Joy Cowley. Originally from Psalms for the Road)

Hey! Let's celebrate weakness!  
Yes! You know!  
Weakness as in failure!  
Let's celebrate the slips and the slops,  
the drops and falls and uh-ohs  
that teach us wisdom  
and compassion  
and patience  
and humour  
and understanding  
of what it means to be  
not a human being  
but a human becoming.  
Let us celebrate  
all those opportunities for growth  
that were ours yesterday and today.  
Let's celebrate for ourselves.  
Let's celebrate for each other.  
And while we are at it,

Before the world was made, before there was anything to be seen, before a sound was heard or a colour excited the senses, you were God.

Before there were seas and oceans, mountains and valleys, streams and rivers, plants and animals, and before we came to be, you were God. Always and forever God , and we praise you.

We praise you for creating us in your own image and giving us the desire to create and the ability to think, to plan, to choose and to love.

Wonderful God! We praise you for the love showered over the whole of your creation and made flesh in Jesus Christ who came, lived, died and was raised as a sign of your love.

We praise you that your love has reached out to our own hearts and lives and through your Holy Spirit in changing us and making us into the people you always meant us to be.

We praise you and in Christ we give you all the glory.  
Amen

**Thanksgiving prayers** (further details from Alison B)

Cut out Paper flowers. Pre-write or in service write word of thanksgiving in centre. Folding petals; put on water. Flowers will open!

## Intro to flower prayers of thanksgiving

*We now have an opportunity to make our personal prayers of thanksgiving.*

*On your seat there should have been a flower with the word thank you in the centre. If you would like to do so please write a word or two of what you feel particularly thankful for on the back of the flower, then fold in the petals and hand it to one of the stewards. We will place them in this tray of water and please come up during coffee and see how they have blossomed. If you don't wish to add anything to the thank you then just give the flower to the stewards. If you don't wish to do anything then please just take the opportunity to say a silent thank you. Whilst we think of the thanks that we might offer music will be played.*

*Dear God we thank you for what you have given to us .Amen*

## **Confession** (Roots 23 – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017 page 19)

God of all creation

Forgive us when we sow seeds of destruction by our lack of concern for the world you have made;

Forgive us when we sow seeds of doubt, by failing to to see your likeness in the people we meet;

Forgive us when we sow seeds of despair, when our lack of faith causes us to give up or we fail to act; forgive us when we sow seeds that would be better not sown.

In your mercy forgive us and help us change our ways

# Winter



## Themes of other Seasons Sessions:

Spring: HOPE

Summer: LIVING

Autumn: GROWING

Winter: WAITING

## Developing “The Tree”

Dress the ‘tree’ appropriately – buds, flowers, autumn leaves, **bare branches**

## Winter Theme: WAITING

Growing in the Darkness:

Winter as a time of waiting, isolation, invisible growth, taking time to think and reflect.

“Anti-freeze” in snowdrops keeps them protected over the winter months.

Rhubarb, mushrooms and hyacinths!

Life under the surface – what is happening underneath the winter hardness?

Use of the pastoral letter in Autumn 2017 Circuit Magazine

**Hymns** – recommended options in bold, supporting texts in standard script

StF 167 Colours of day

StF 618 Sacred the body God has created

StF 121 Autumn days when the grass is jewelled

StF 239 Sent by The Lord am I

StF 415 The Church of Christ in every age

God is working His purpose out (*not in StF*)

### **All Age activities**

Activity based on seeding methods (helicopter poppies etc) – where will the fruit land?

**Forgiveness** (Methodist Worship Book P. 42)

**Intercessions** (Roots 23 – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017 page 19)

Pray for the workers in the field who sow and tend and harvest the food we eat, and for those struggling to make a living from the land.

Pray for the workers in the field who stand in solidarity with the poor and who work with them to make the world a fairer place

Pray for the workers in the field who spread the good news of the gospel, where the hungry are fed, the homeless are given shelter and the enslaved go free.

Pray for the workers in the field who support the lives we lead here and around the world and for those who teach and heal and entertain us and serve our communities. AMEN

You may like to include some topical issues

The lake in S. Africa (Johannesburg?) which is nearly dry.

The need for Food banks

Those trying to use or rejected or waste food

Refugees in camps dependent on food hand-outs

## **The LORD'S PRAYER**

**Collection Prayer** (*sorry we forgot to look for one*)

**A sending out prayer** (Roots: 23 – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017 page 19)

God of the harvest, send us out to sow, support us as we tend and bless us as we reap – all in your holy name. Amen

**Hymns** – recommended options in bold, supporting texts in standard script

**All Age activities**

**Readings** – recommended options in bold, supporting texts in standard script

Psalm 67 A song of thanksgiving (*verse 6 says “The land has produced its harvest”*)

Galatians 5 verses 22 to 26 (*the Fruits of The Spirit*)

Luke 10 verses 1 to 12 (*Jesus sends out the seventy two*)

## **Prayers**

**Adoration**

**Thanksgiving prayers**

**Confession**

**Forgiveness**

**Intercessions**

You may like to include some topical issues

**The LORD'S PRAYER**

**Collection Prayer**

**A sending out prayer**



# Autumn



## Themes of other Seasons Sessions:

Spring: HOPE

Summer: LIVING

Autumn: GROWTH

Winter: WAITING

## Developing “The Tree”

Dress the ‘tree’ appropriately – buds, flowers, **autumn leaves**, bare branches

## Autumn Theme: GROWTH

Mission and evangelism – the need to do better in “walking the walk” as well as “talking the talk” tying this in with a growth /end of life plan

# Summer



## Themes of other Seasons Sessions:

Spring: HOPE

Summer: LIVING

Autumn: GROWING

Winter: WAITING

## Developing “The Tree”

Dress the ‘tree’ appropriately – buds, **flowers**, autumn leaves, bare branches

*Use leaf and flower stamps*

## Summer Theme: LIVING

Watching things grow; nurturing; having a break; time to rest; holidays; parties; community activities; inclusivity; getting together – sport, picnics, weddings

**Readings** – recommended options in bold, supporting texts in standard script

Feeding of the 5000; Wedding at Cana; Acts 2?; Jesus walking on the water?

**Prayers**

**Adoration**

**Thanksgiving prayers**

**Confession**

**Forgiveness**

**Intercessions**

You may like to include some topical issues

**The LORD’S PRAYER**

**Collection Prayer**

**A sending out prayer**

**Hymns** – recommended options in bold, supporting texts in standard script

StF51 Great is thy faithfulness

StF306 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain

StF441 As water to the thirsty

StF136 Morning has broken

StF82 O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder

StF92 Think of a world without any flowers

StF544 As the deer

My lighthouse, my lighthouse (Rend Collective)

**All Age activities**

Making flowers; flower arrangements;

Wedding cake decorating

Sand pictures/ beach hut – like a card, open doors from centre, general decorations on the back and a Bible verse to go with a life-belt?

Make fish biscuits/ bread

Make a lighthouse