

Rogationtide

- Sue Wallace

“All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above:
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his
love.”

We have now entered the time of Rogationtide – 3 days before Ascension Day. Rogation comes from the Latin ‘rogatio’ meaning ‘Asking.’

The days were of prayer and fasting and in Western Christianity observed with processions during which the Litany of the Saints was chanted. This formed the basis of the ‘blessing of the crops’ and ‘Beating the Bounds’ with the walk around the parish boundary. At significant parts of the walk, one of the choristers was beaten by the some of the procession for him to remember the boundary! In rural communities this still takes place as a walk around the parish boundaries.

...The blessing of the crops ... is very dear to me as we sing at Harvest ‘We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land – **but it is fed and watered by God’s almighty hand**’. I have taken some pictures of the fruit and vegetables growing in my garden. Many of them were the seeds sown in my picture taken in February for the Hope 2020 exhibition – cucumber, tomatoes, courgettes etc. During Rogationtide I am still praying for an abundant harvest and asking for God’s blessing on all the fruit and vegetables.

May God be praised and thanked for all His love.”



Song: We plough the fields and scatter – you can listen to it here
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ha628Pj_Rns

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.

All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,

then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.

2 He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
the wind and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us his children,
he gives our daily bread.

3 We thank you, 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 your love imparts;
and that which you most welcome,
our humble, thankful hearts.