



Mt Vernon United Methodist Church

TRACTOR BLESSING 2025

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!

MEDITATION

Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.

– Ecclesiastes 11:4

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

– Proverbs 21:5

BLESSING¹

We thank God for all good gifts, but today especially, we thank God for the Gift of Seed: **God gives us the seed, and entrusts it to our care.**

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.

The Gift of Soil: **God created and entrusted the soil to our care.**

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.

The Gift of Water: **God blesses us with water, and entrusts it to our care.**

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.

¹ Litany from Know Presbyterian Church, kpcthedford.com, adapted.

The Gift of Livestock: **God gives us livestock, and entrusts them to our care.**

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.

The Gift of Machinery: **God gives us tools and machines, and entrusts them to our wisdom.** 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 all who work with tools and machines be kept safe in the seasons of planting and harvest.

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 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, and the place and people with whom we live. The earth and everything in it—including us—belongs to You. **May we use your gifts to glorify you, in the name of your Son, Jesus.**

AMEN.

ANNOINTING WITH OIL

The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land. – Deuteronomy 28:8

CLOSING SONG

Refrain:

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

1 Each little flow'r that opens,
each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

[Refrain]

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
He made them every one.

[Refrain]

2 The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky.

[Refrain]

4 He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

[Refrain]

*May God give you of heaven's dew and
of earth's richness – an abundance of grain
and new wine. – Genesis 27:28*

God calls Mt Vernon UMC to:

Love God & neighbor as Jesus taught

Learn together of God's love and grace

Serve others by using our God given gifts and talents

Be witnesses of our faith in God through Jesus Christ to all the world!.

To learn more, visit facebook.com/MtVChamp

If you would like a prayer, a visit, a meal, to have Holy Communion brought to your home, or have any other need, please contact any church member or Pastor Rob (217-751-4400, pastor@mtvernon-umc.org).