

Why do we thank God for food?

Written for Harvest Festival. Psalm 111: 5 and Matthew 6: 9-13.

Scene: Lunch time, Michelle and Derek walk on to stage carrying plate of beans on toast and mug of tea each, sit at table to eat.

Michelle: Let's thank God for our food before we eat

Derek: Why do we have to thank God when the food came from Sainsburys? It's not manna from heaven, you know

Michelle: Well, where did Sainsburys get the food from?

Derek: A farmer? Bread from wheat, milk from cows, tea from a farmer in India maybe. Except for the baked beans. I don't know where they came from. Maybe they came from God.

Michelle: So you think we should just thank God for the baked beans?

Derek: Yes, because I can't think how they ended up in a can looking like that. It didn't happen on a farm did it?

Michelle: Ah, yes, the lesser known "miracle of the baked bean." I think the clue is in the name. They actually are beans, haricot beans to be precise, and they ARE grown by farmers, then..er...well, baked, and put in tomato sauce, which is made with some tomatoes, which are also grown by farmers

Derek: Right. So we should thank farmers for baked beans too.

Michelle: No, we still thank God for the baked beans, the bread, and the tea with milk in it

Derek: Even though it all came from farmers via Sainsburys?

Michelle: Yes, because it's God who makes things grow

Derek: Not farmers?

Michelle: Well, yes, it's farmers who plant the wheat seeds and the haricot bean seeds and the... I have no idea how tea grows, it's probably from seed too, and farmers milk the cows

Derek: So what are we thanking God for?

Michelle: For creating seeds in the first place

Derek: Oh. And cows.

Michelle: Cows?

Derek: Yes, cows don't grow from seed

Michelle: I never said they did

Derek: Thank you God for cows

Michelle: And seeds, and things that make seeds grow

Derek: Like stuff from cows

Michelle: There's no need to go into details! I was thinking more along the lines of sun and rain, like in the song, "We plough the fields and scatter, the good seed on the land.." (*starts singing*) "but it is fed and watered by God's Almighty hand. He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain..."

Derek: "The cow pats and the horse dung, the poly-ure-thane!"

Both: "All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, For all his love" Amen!

Michelle: This is cold now, I'll zap it in the microwave (*picking up both plates and walking off stage*)

Derek: Do we have to thank God for microwaves?

Michelle: I've only got an hour for lunch, I haven't got time to explain!