

Prayers for Open Farm Sunday

Voice 1 Cabbages come in polythene bags,
devoid of hidden insects and other creepy crawlies.
Potatoes are mud free and ready for the oven.
Meat is presented in sterile packs
whilst milk is pasteurised and semi skimmed
in conveniently shaped containers
that fit in the fridge.

Voice 2 It's all a million miles
from where the story began,
and the world of those who should tell it.

Voice 3 Those who prepare the land,
plough it and cultivate it;
sow it and plant it,
weed it and spray it,
irrigate it and harvest it,
and sort and transport
the crop that's produced.

Voice 4 Those who calve the cow,
stay with it and tend it;
feed it and milk it,
help with the birth
and watch the calf grow.
Who tag it and protect it,
Nurture it and feed it,
until it's ready for market
as a strong healthy beast.

Voice 1 So many hours and so much skill.
Generations of experience,
tending the land and caring for stock.
So much effort, so many risks,
the weather, disease, the whim of the market
all to put food on my plate.

Voice 2 Lord I thank you
for those who produce the food that I eat;
for their commitment and effort
their knowledge, their skills.

Voice 3 And forgive me I pray
that I take them for granted,
forget what they do
and ignore what I owe.

Voice 4 May I value their work
and all it produces,
May I give them the respect
and the appreciation they deserve.

Together And may I give you the glory,
 as Creator Provider,
 the giver of all that I now thank you for.
 Amen

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Lord Jesus.
as you opened the eyes of the blind
help me to see growing food and not just green fields;

as you shared bread and fishes with those who were hungry
help me to share what I have with those who have little;

as you challenged the grumblers and ungrateful
*help me to appreciate the food laid before me
and the debt of gratitude I owe to those who produce it;*
Amen

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God of mystery and science,
We praise you.

Designer of nature's beauty and bounty,
We praise you.

Creator of soil and of seed,
We praise you.

Provider of food and the skill to produce it,
We praise you.

Initiator of life and of love,
We praise you.

Healer of people, of land and communities,
We praise you

Redeemer from sin and its destructive effect
We praise you.

Renewer of faith and of hope for the future
We praise you.

Lord of Creation,
Almighty, all-loving;
generous and open,
self-giving and faithful,
holy and righteous
We praise you.
Amen