

Liturgy for Autumn



PRAYER FOR AUTUMN

Music: Dawn Mantras (from Eternity)

Leader: As we watch leaves fluttering to the ground in the autumn, we are reminded that nature's cycles are mirrored in our lives. Autumn is a time for letting go and releasing things that have been a burden. All the religious traditions pay tribute to such acts of relinquishment. Autumn is the right time to practise getting out of the way and letting the Spirit take charge of our lives.



Invocation: God of all wonder, bless this space, the land on which we stand. Bless this time eternally now. Bless those who gather, open to your presence.

Lighting of the 3 candles:

1. We light this candle in honour of our ancestors, the bedrock of our lives. We place their names before God... *(In silence name loved ones who have died)*
2. We light this candle in honour of those whose courageous love, even in the face of death, gave hope to the oppressed. We place their names before God... *(In silence name)*
3. We light this candle in honour of those whose teachings have continued throughout time to inspire compassion, wisdom and justice. We place their names before God... *(In silence name)*

Leader: Into your presence we come, loving God, mindful of our own failings; our thoughts, words and actions that have shown nothing of your love.

All: Forgive us, loving God

Leader: Into your presence we come, loving God; that we might know freedom from the guilt of sin, and be made right again with our Creator.

All: Thank you, loving God

Leader: Wind of Heaven, May we listen to your Spirit moving in the air of Autumn:
A season of transition, a season of change;
A season of harvest, a bounty of goodness;

A season of mystery, of dying and letting go;
A season of trust, of new life being promised again.
May we take time to find moments of quiet in our life.
May we be inspired to pay closer attention.
Spirit of the Earth,
May beauty emerge within us.
May the vivid colors of our gifts come into view.
May the branches of our souls reveal our essential core of goodness.
O Great Spirit of Autumn,
Grant us courage to live your wisdom and witness your beauty.
May we fall into the mystery and step forward in trust.
May we discover moments of rest and a harvest of nourishment.
Great Spirit of Autumn,
Wind of Heaven,
Spirit of the Earth,
Thank you for the blessing of this day. Amen.

Denise Pyles, M.Div.

Reading: 1

*'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter,
day and night will never cease.'*
(Gen 8:22)

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.
We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.
Creator God, who brings forth
both green shoot and hoar frost,
sunrise and sunset,
we bring our thanks
for seeds that have grown,
harvests gathered,
storehouses filled,
mouths fed.
And, as your good earth rests
through winter's cold embrace,

we look forward to its re-awakening
when kissed by Spring's first touch.

Reading 2

Autumn is a season of transition, reminding us that our lives are a constant movement of interior and exterior change. Autumn brings us to a deeper awareness that we live in a continual cycle of dying and rising, being open to the surprises of God throughout our lives! It reminds us that since God is far bigger than anything we can ever imagine, there will always be more dimensions of the Sacred to discover.

When the autumn leaves change their colours, they are actually reverting to their original hue as chlorophyll is gradually blocked. As the trees begin to pull energy inward for the coming hibernation of winter, the chlorophyll in the leaves decreases and the vibrant shades we witness are their true colours. At the beginning of this season, we are invited through an awesome awareness of God's beauty to look within and consider the habits, beliefs, and attitudes that we are being called to let go of in the coming days. The witness of energy of release during this season of autumn inspires us to surrender our masks and become more truly who God has created us to be.

Sister Ann Francis

Reflection: Leaves Don't Fall. *Carrie Newcomer*

Intercessions

LEADER: Loving God, in this autumn season, as the leaves turn to gold and rust, may our hearts and eyes turn to the concerns of our changing world.

1. For those who are experiencing unemployment, the loss of a loved one, disease in body, or exile from family or home, we pray

All: Compassionate God hear us.

2. For those who are facing the autumn years of their lives, aware of the magnificence and fragility of human life, we pray,

All: Compassionate God hear us.

3. For those who are thinking ahead, planning and consolidating with untiring love, we pray,

All: Compassionate God, hear us.

(Add your own petitions here as you may please ...)

LEADER:

Loving God, as the daylight fades in our lives and we need more protection and warmth, we thank you for your unconditional love. Receive our heartfelt prayers this day.

Amen.

OUR FATHER

Leader: We give a sure foundation to all our prayers, and pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Leader: O extravagant God, in this ripening, red tinged autumn, waken in me a sense of joy in just being alive, joy for nothing in general and everything in particular.

All: We give praise and thanks for all our days.

Leader: God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising.

All: We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

Leader: God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green letting go of what has been. We too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk. Help us to let go when we need to do so. God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns.

All: As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

Leader: God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives. We always need to recognize your power filled presence.

All: May we gain strength from this.

Leader: God of harvest wagons and fields of grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope.

All: Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

Leader: God of birds going south for another season, your Wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried forward into the future.

All: We yearn for insight and vision.

Leader: God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs,

All: May your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons.

Leader: God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life.

All: For all this we are grateful.

Closing Prayer:

Companion God,
Your presence is the source of our lives.
In you we live and have our being.
Your love creates, sustains and redeems us.
As we struggle with our fears and anxieties,
you are with us.

All: Come then open our hearts
so that we may find you within us,
alive to what is hidden, powerful in what is fragile
and loving in what is resistant to you.
Grant us wisdom to listen to your voice
and to see you in our dreams.
Amen.

Leader: Go now blessed

In the name of God who forgives,

In the name of God who loves,
In the name of God who daily whispers your name
In the name of God who calls us to care for others
In God's +life-sustaining,
+liberating, and,
+ transforming grace.

Be blessed!

All: Amen (*Music*)

