

Autumn Prayer

We bless you,
God of Seed and Harvest
And we bless each other
That the beauty of this world
And the love that created it
Might be expressed though our lives
And be a blessing to others
Now and always

A. AMEN

In the fading of the summer sun,
the shortening of days, cooling breeze,
swallows' flight and moonlight rays

A. WE SEE THE CREATOR'S HAND

In the browning of leaves once green,
morning mists, autumn chill,
fruit that falls frost's first kiss

A. WE SEE THE CREATOR'S HAND

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.

For summer's passing
and harvest home

A. WE THANK YOU

For autumn's splendour
and winter's chill

A. WE THANK YOU

For seed that has fallen
the promise of spring

A. WE THANK YOU

Creator God, for daily bread
and all who work
to bring your harvest home
we bring our thanks today.

(pause)

Forgive our ingratitude
we who have so much
yet waste what you have given.

(pause)

For those whose harvest is poor,
whose crops have withered,
water tainted, children starve,
help those who bring relief
and bestow on us
an unaccustomed generosity,
that all might share from your garden
and all might sing your praise.

(pause)

Creator God, provider of all
we bring our thanks today.

In the beginning there was nothing, and out of nothing you fashioned a universe so vast, so unimaginable that we can only sigh with amazement when we stare upwards on a star-lit night. And within this universe you positioned the earth and populated it, provided for it and designed for it to be a place of beauty.
Creator God: **Thank you**

In the beginning there was just potential; the seed within the packet, soil's nutrients, sunshine's warmth,

rain clouds gathering. And within the tiny seed all that is our daily bread encoded, primed and ready should it be planted and allowed to grow.

Creator God: **Thank you**

In the beginning there was humankind, placed within your garden, made steward, gardener and caretaker of this place of beauty, given responsibilities and the capacity to enjoy. And yet among the seeds we have sown have been weeds and crops of our own choosing, which have not shown fruit or have spread and choked the earth.

Creator God: **Forgive us**

So many shades of gold

Autumn

Another miracle we take for granted

Another expression of the artist's vision

The blending of the autumn hues

with the setting sun

Warm

Comforting

Perfect

Thank you for autumn, Lord

The Church is full of people

in the Autumn of their years.

Some have led colourful lives

leaves bronzed and golden

through exposure to the elements

their appearance the centre of attention.

Others have been exposed

to more extreme conditions

branches bowed and scarred.

Some go unnoticed,

yet stand tall and steadfast

against wind and rain.

All have a story to tell

all can offer support and shelter

for saplings which grow beneath

their leafy canopy.