

Our Autumn

O God of Creation,
you have blessed us with
the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months,
may the earlier setting of the sun
remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colours of the leaves
remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air
remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields
remind us of the abundance we have been given
and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit
remind us of your great promise that
death is temporary, and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

- *Author Unknown*



Centennial Park Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Taken by Claire Nolan RSC

An Autumn Prayer



During Autumn we celebrate the earth's annual pilgrimage around the sun, the autumn equinox. For thousands of years planetary pilgrims have welcomed the sacred event of autumn with songs and celebrations. Day equals night and light balances darkness, as on this feast a season of completion and contentment begins.

This is the harvest season; the fruits of summer are stored for the coming winter. It is a time of being grateful, not taking things for granted. It is also a time to take stock of the darkness within us and to acknowledge the great store of goodness that is also within.

As the sounds of life continue around us,
may our voice be one with the chorus of all creation,
which rejoices in the ripeness of autumn.

May our prayer echo through our every deed this season of autumn.

O Giver of all gifts,
who have enriched our lives through the gifts of creation.
Grant us the gift to live in harmony with your wondrous works.
During autumn we acknowledge the great store of good that is within us.
Grant us the grace of compassion so that we may give of this goodness and not bypass anyone in need.
Make us a holy people, radiating the fullness of your love.

Loving Artist of Creation, we give you praise.
From our hearts and homes,
we look upon the array of creation,
and we delight in the beauty of our world,
the magnificence of the whole universe.

You formed us as women and men,
equal partners in the stewardship of your world;
joined forever as sisters and brothers,
yet within each of us lives a rich diversity
of different gifts, different hopes, and different dreams.

How many are the ways in which the richness of creation
reminds us of the deep and varied mysteries of your love for us.

Give us voices to proclaim your goodness
and to celebrate the gift of life that you have given us to tend.

Blessed are you,
O Harvest of my heart, Sacred Source of all life, delight of my days.

- Claire Nolan RSC

