

Prayer

Dear God of Autumn,

I see how the trees have suddenly changed. There are so many hues of dying in the coloured leaves. As always I cry out inside: "Not yet! Please, not yet!" Why is this cry so strong? Why does it never leave me? Every year I think that I have finally accepted summer's going but every year I fight the loss of warmth and green.

Is it my humanness and my intense grasp on life? Is it a lack of maturity in my own spirituality? Am I still so far away from accepting the truth of the Paschal mystery? I wonder about that. No answers come to me. Only the questions that I know so well. In the meantime, the air keeps on getting cooler and frost threatens to wrap itself around pumpkins.

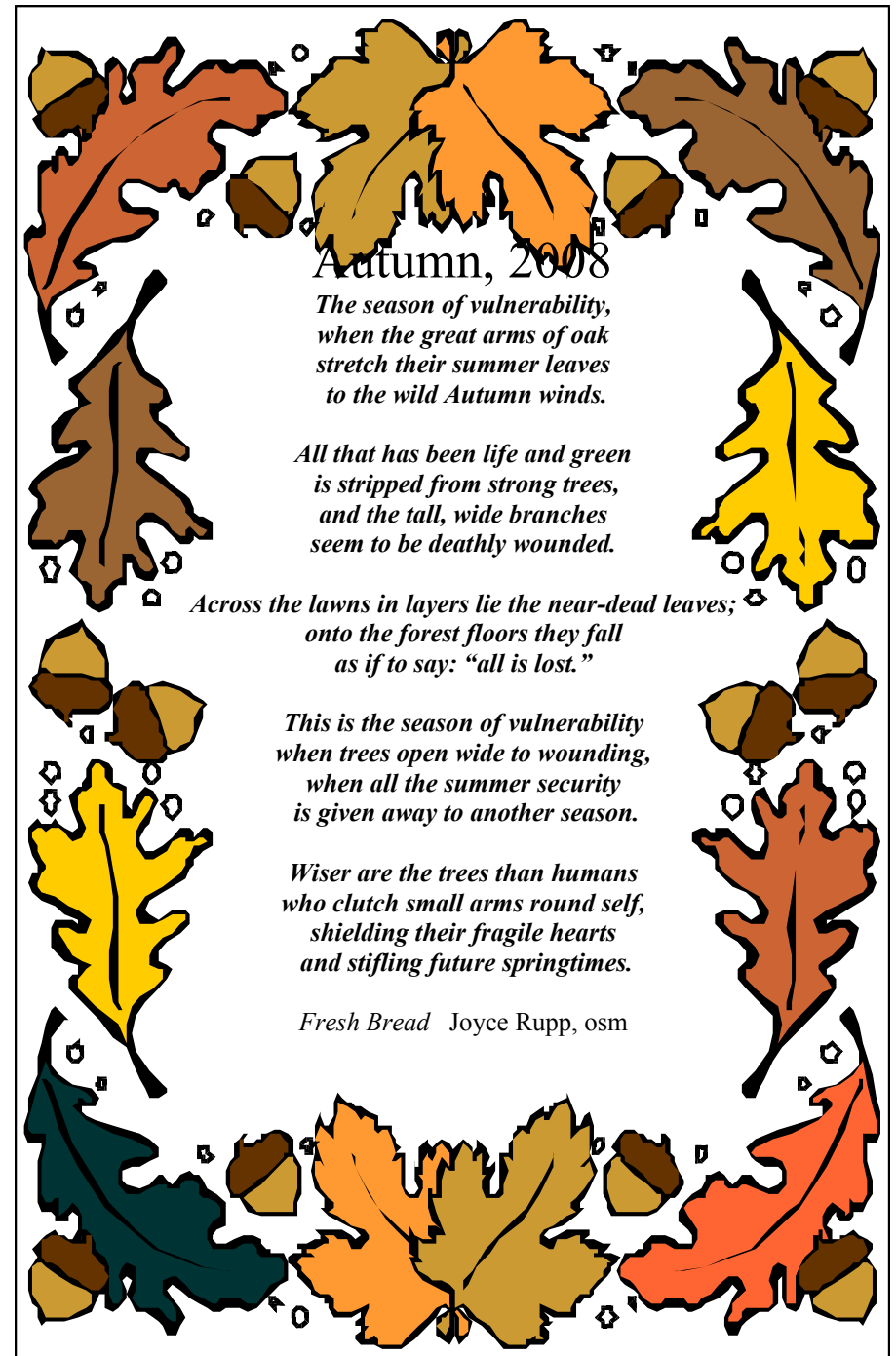
Jesus, master of the seasons of the heart, take this dread of winter in me and transform it into joy and trust. Help me to know that every season has its own reason to exist and that each season brings its own set of blessings. Grant me the grace of vulnerability so that I can surrender my heart to you and love as you loved. Walk with me when I want to run away from the negatives of life instead of desiring to grow through them.

Amen.

Fresh Bread Joyce Rupp, osm



Prepared by the Lakemba Group



Reflection

This Autumn, let us pause and allow the falling leaves to remind us of the call to be vulnerable, the call to be open to the possibility of being hurt, the call to accept and to grow from the daily dyings of our days and to love as Jesus loved.

Go for a walk in the forest or just down the street if you have some trees nearby whose leaves have turned. Let your heart roam through the leaves. Think thoughts of vulnerability. Pick up a leaf. Take it home with you. Place it somewhere where you will see it often. Let it remind you of the call to be vulnerable.

Take time to browse through a Gospel. Note all the times that Jesus opened himself to hurt and misunderstanding. Allow yourself to be a bit more open and vulnerable to someone whom you love. Surrender yourself a bit more to God's power working through you. Let Autumn be a time when the value of vulnerability is strengthened in your life.

The vulnerability of Jesus

Lk 4:1-13: in the desert.... where for 40 days he was tempted by the Devil

Mk 6:1-6: in his home town teaching....Many were astounded at this teaching and they took offence at him.

Mk 7:1-23: in not being understood....The Pharisees question him on not observing the tradition of the elders.

Jn 19:1-7: as he faced Pilate.... was flogged and the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head and dressed him in a purple robe.

Lk 22:39-46: in his agony.... to the Mount of Olives to pray and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

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Autumn Intercessions

On this glistening autumn morning, we pray, loving God, for those whose eyes are so clouded by misfortune that they cannot see the light:

the insolvent farmer, the deserted mother,
the workless hard-worker; the rejected social misfit,
the neglected child, the dejected mentally-ill;
the prisoner sighing, the drug addict crying,
the patient dying.

O God our help, be to each an inner light and peace, and bless all those hands which reach out to them today.

Brief Prayers for Australians Vol. 2 Bruce D. Prewer



Simple Pleasures

We thank you, Lord of all life, for the simple pleasures we take for granted:

aroma of fresh toast, shade of a tree,
formation of a flower, and the flavour of tea.

The flight of a seagull, a koala in the wild,
comfort of a familiar bed, and the energy of a child.

Your goodness and your care, O God of simple gifts, are over all your works!

Receive our grateful prayer.

Brief Prayers for Australians Vol. 3 Bruce D. Prewer