



Prayer Space N° 24 January 2022

How do we approach the season of Winter? Do we mourn the passing of Summer's warmth and Autumn's golden glow? Do we live in fear of shortened days, long nights and the cold of the coming days?

Or does the Winter remind us of the wonderful rhythm of God's creation? Seeds sown in Spring have grown, fruited and provided for our needs. Trees that provided shelter for wildlife have now shed their leaves which in due course will rot down and provide nutrients for the coming year. Plants in our gardens which have seemingly died lie dormant within the ground, ready to emerge and bring us joy in the Spring to come.

The countryside sleeps in Winter, and within it lies all the potential of Spring, Summer and Autumn!

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created and have their being

This is the God we serve,
A God of love, of healing and power.
Alleluia
This is the God we serve,
A God who loves us with a Father's love.
Alleluia
This is the God we serve,
A God who laughs as we laugh,
Alleluia
This is the God we serve,
A God who suffers as we suffer.
All: Alleluia
This is the God we serve,

A God who brings light into dark places.
All: Alleluia
This is the God we serve,
A God who brings warmth into hearts that are chilled.
All: Alleluia
This is the God we serve,
A God who sees within us the potential of Spring.
All: Alleluia

*'Where man sees but withered leaves,
God sees sweet flowers growing.'
(Albert Laighton)*

There is a winter in all of our lives,
a chill and darkness that makes us yearn
for days that have gone
or put our hope in days yet to be.

Father God, you created seasons for a purpose.
Spring is full of expectation
buds breaking
frosts abating and an awakening
of creation before the first days of summer.

Now the sun gives warmth
and comfort to our lives
reviving aching joints
bringing colour, new life
and crops to fruiting.

Autumn gives nature space
to lean back, relax and enjoy the fruits of its
labour
mellow colours in sky and landscape
as the earth prepares to rest.

Then winter, cold and bare as nature takes stock
rests, unwinds, sleeps until the time is right.

An endless cycle
and yet a perfect model.
We need a winter in our lives.
A time of rest, a time to stand still.
A time to reacquaint ourselves
with the faith in which we live and breathe.
It is only then that we can draw strength
from the one in whom we are rooted,

take time to grow and rise through the darkness
into the warm glow of your springtime,
to blossom and flourish,
bring colour and vitality into this world,
your garden.

Thank you Father
for the seasons of our lives

*"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of
winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a
bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to
unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."
(Barbara Winkler)*

We are called to be a light, a candle to bring the
illumination of God's Truth and Word into lives
that have yet to know the One who created all
things. God's light brings not only light but the
warmth of His love wherever it touches.

(silence)

With all of our strengths and weaknesses
Hopes and fears
We come to you now
Our Creator God.
Fill us
Renew us

Take us
Use us

As your lights in a world of darkness,
empowered through your Spirit
Your Spirit of love

Your Spirit of peace
Your Spirit of hope

In a world that lives but has yet to experience life
in all its fullness.
In a world that loves, but has yet to meet with
the source of all love.
In a world that forever seeks, but stumbles in its
searching.

And as we think of those leaves, and the passing
of Winter through to the hope of a Springtime
when life will emerge from the frozen earth, we
remember that we also are a part of that cycle of

death and rebirth, that the seeds we sow in this
life will fall to the ground with the potential to
grow and be fruitful.

As a part of nature's wondrous cycle
Of new birth, growth, fruitfulness and death
We rejoice in the creation of new life,
For parenthood, the passing on of knowledge,
For understanding and the wisdom of years.
We are grateful for those who have gone before
Passing on to us our spiritual heritage.
May our lives blossom as the apple tree in Spring
May we become fruitful in thought and deed
And may the seed of love that falls to the ground
Linger beyond our time on this earth.

God of Winter, Springtime
Summer and Autumn,
God of Light
God of Warmth
God of Love
God of Potential
God of Hope
Who in the darkest days
Enters our lives
As you entered this world
Bringing Love
Healing and Wholeness
We praise your glorious name!