Be still  
Be attentive to the divine presence

(a silent pause is kept)

God of love and life

as the seasons move into Autumn

**We come to you**

in the fullness of life

**We welcome your life giving Spirit**

as those made male and female in your image

**We welcome each other**

God of the South and the warm breeze

**We call to you to be with us on our life’s journey**

God of the East and sun rising

**We call to you to bring us life renewed**

God of the North and the cold winds

**We call to you to be the warmth in our hearts**

God of the west and sun setting

**We call to you at the time of harvest**

**Christ Jesus**

**Be the life within us**

**Be the love between us**

**Be the light that guides us**

**This day and for eternity**

(people each hold a seed)

The earth is the Lord’s and all that is within it

Created and creative things, fruit and fruitfulness

Springtime and summer, seed-time and harvest

For the promise of harvest contained within a seed

**we thank you.**

For the oak tree within an acorn,

the bread within a grain,

the apple within a pip.

The mystery of nature gift wrapped for us to sow

**we thank you.**

For summer’s passing and harvest home

**We thank you**

For seed that has fallen and the promise of spring

**We thank you**

*Genesis 8:22*: ‘As long as the earth endures, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease’.

We see the 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 the 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 reawakening when kissed by spring’s first touch.

***Sharing the gifts of creation***

**We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,**

**But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:**

**He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,**

**The breezes and the sunshine, and soft, refreshing rain.**

**Refrain:**

**All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;**

**Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.**

**He only is the maker of all things near and far;**

**He paints the wayside flower, he lights the evening star;**

**The winds and waves obey him, by him the birds are fed;**

**Much more to us, his children, he gives our daily bread.**

**Refrain**

**We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,**

**The seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.**

**Accept the gifts we offer for all thy love imparts,**

**And what thou most desirest, our humble, thankful hearts.**

**Refrain**

*Leviticus 23:16,22:* Celebrate the Festival of Harvest with the first-fruits of the crops you sow in you field. Celebrate the Festival of the Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field… *(pause)*

When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner residing among you. I am the Lord your God. *(pause)*

*(seeds are planted or thrown into the air during this song)*

**What can I give him, poor as I am?** (tune: star of the county down)

**If I were a shepherd I would give a lamb**

**If I were a wise man I would do my part**

**But what I have I give him give my heart.**

**Unless a grain of wheat does fall into the ground and dies**

**It remains a single grain lest entombed in earth it lies**

**Those who seek to live for self will find their life in vain**

**But those who give their life in love will receive it back again**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say ‘behold I freely give’**

**The living water thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live’**

**I came to Jesus and I drank of that life giving stream**

**My thirst was quenched my soul revived and now I live in him**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say ‘I am this dark worlds light**

**Look unto me thy morn shall rise and all thy day be bright’**

**I looked to Jesus and I found in him my star my sun**

**and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done**

God of the South and the season of passing summer

**Bless us now with the warmth of Christ’s presence**

God of the East and the sun rising

**Bless us now through the rest of this day until tomorrow comes**

God of the North and the darkness of winter

**Bless us in the quiet times of reflection and waiting**

God of the West and the sun setting

**Bless us now with gifts of creation and with fruitful lives**

And May the blessing of the God of life and death

In whom the seasons grow and fade

In whom all of us are held in love

Our Father and Mother who made us

Our Brother Jesus who mends us

Our Sustainer the Spirit who moulds us

Be upon as at this time

And in all times to come **Amen**

**As Summer gives way to Autumn**

**An outdoor celebration**

**For**

**Lammas**

*(the first fruits of the harvest)*