

Autumn Prayer, 1982

For Artists and Creators

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Christ Community Church
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Transcription of the spoken sermon

O God whose love of beauty has written beauty
into the very fabric of nature,
we offer you the praise of our lips,
the gratitude of our hearts
for all that we experience
in these nostalgic Autumn days:

The ravishing beauty of the woods,
dressed in a splendid many-colored coat;
the brilliant sunsets surrounded by dark clouds,
stippled with flecks of gold;
the crisp freshness of the first breath of morning;
the mellow warmth of an autumn afternoon;
pumpkins and cornstalks; apples and cider;
football and marching bands.

And with all the sights and sounds and smells of these days,
amidst a schedule too full,
the gentle grieving that another Summer is gone;
the sense of slight foreboding
that another Winter is coming,
that another year is well nigh past,

Father, we give you thanks that, in the changing seasons of our lives,
you do constant remain;
that in the rapid passage of our days,
you change not.
Your mercy is new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

Today, Father, we are especially mindful of and deeply grateful for
the sound of music,

for the elevation of our spirits
through all forms of artistic expression:

for human voice and the sound of instruments,
for oil and canvas and the artist's touch that creates beauty,
for poets who paint with words
and writers whose words are sharper than a two-edged sword,
laying bare the human soul.

For all rich gifts of creativity
and for all whose gifts are offered to you
as a sacrifice of praise and adoration,
we give you thanks,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.