



*(Every week I write a Monday Morning Offering for my blog (ConcordPastor.blogspot.com) Here's this week's seasonal piece.)*

Good morning, good God!

Seems in my part of the world, Lord, you're easing us into autumn with warm sunny days wrapped in cool mornings and evenings...

The balance, just now, is near perfect but soon a chill will spill into afternoon hours and slowly pick the leaves from trees until they're bared of beauty, summer's glory fading fast...

Something in me longs to stall the seasons changing, to stay the summer, holding back the dying that comes 'round each year as sunlight plays its game of hide-and-seek..

There's a time for fall, Lord, and for a brisk nip in the air quickening my step and pace, for branches scratching prayers across a harvest moon and for such rare, spare beauty - I offer you my praise and thanks...

Inside and out, Lord, my body and soul stand between these seasons: no change in nature's phases fails to change in turn the seasons of my heart...

The rhythms of creation, of suns and planets, moons and tides all echo in my heart and my soul knows how all that lives will die and all that dies will rise again when comes that spring that has no end...

Walk me from summer into fall, Lord, that I not lose an hour's light, a day's warmth or a moment's memory of sun and sand and shore... Walk me into fall from summer, Lord: show yourself in all your leafy autumn beauty, dropping down to lay a colored carpet, a path beneath my steps...

Help me let go of what I hold too tightly, what cannot last the whole year through, and let my empty arms embrace what comes with trust that even in the falling, in the dying, you are with me, faithfully present and abiding in all the seasons of my life...

Be my bridge, Lord, from summertime to fall and ready me for all that lies ahead: the winter and the cold, the springtime and its promise and summer once again... Walk with me, Lord, and help me walk as gently with others as you do with me...

Receive my prayer, this morning's offering, and keep through the week ahead... Amen.