

# A Christian Halloween Liturgy



*M. Arnold '12*

*"Change and Decay in All Around I See..."*

*Light the incense if you are intending on using some. Whilst playing the Emili Sande Track, clear a space on the table, set out the equipment. This isn't a rush job – think about what you are intending to do here, remembering someone, so give it some thought and reverence. As the music fades away, remember you are entering into the sacred time of remembrance and thanksgiving.*

<sup>1</sup> As the wheel of the year turns ever onwards, the harvest is home and another cycle of growth is complete. We now find ourselves spiralling into the darkness of wintertime and as we do, we gather to celebrate the feast of All Hallows Eve, Hallowe'en or Samhain, or Summer's End. At this time we remember, give thanks for and honour our beloved ancestors who have made a positive impact in our lives before they passed through the veil of death.

<sup>2</sup> Before we consecrate this space, let us spend a moment listening to the words of the writer of the ancient book of Ecclesiastes:

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance...”

*A period of reflective silence is held.*

<sup>1</sup> Our table is prepared and ready. We light a candle to remind us of the Divine Creator, Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World. We remember too that everyone coming into this world is given light by Jesus to shine out for others.

*Light the central, main candle.*

**All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.**

*Everyone holds hands around the table so a “circle” is completed*

<sup>2</sup> O Eternal Source of all Life,  
Who flows throughout our sacred landscape  
providing, nourishing, sustaining, and harvesting,  
We give You thanks for and honour the good things which have grown within us  
during the last year.

<sup>1</sup> We give You thanks for the beauty of the changing seasons, the colours, sounds, smells and tastes.

We give You thanks for and honour those who walked this land before us and whose wisdom, songs, tears and laughter still echo in our hearts.

<sup>1+2</sup> We say to all those who come here in peace, both seen and unseen,  
Hail and welcome!

**All: Hail and welcome!**

<sup>2</sup> We establish our circle in the peace of the Eternal One, for without peace, no work is fruitful.

<sup>1</sup> Our beloved departed ones may have physically passed over, but they have left a legacy in our lives which lives with us. Let us not lose them in mourning their passing, but celebrate and give thanks for what they have left in us now, and pray for their journey which continues onward into our Creator, from whom all things have come and to whom all will return.

*Hold a time of silence.*

<sup>1</sup> Let us share stories of what our beloved meant to us, and the positive impact they made in our lives.

*Each person takes the photo of their loved one and shares stories / wisdom / songs and memories which they would like to give thanks for at this time.*

*After each person finishes, they light a tealight / floating candle from the central candle and place it either in front of the photograph or float it on the water in the bowl. Afterwards the person should repeat these words: "Light of the World, may the light given to [Name] add to the light given to me, that I may shine like a star in the dark places of this world. Be their guiding light as they journey further into You."*

<sup>2</sup> Let us hold and cherish those memories of our loved ones within our hearts.

*Play the Enya track, "Evening Falls" entirely before continuing.*

<sup>1</sup> God of death and resurrection life, and source of all,  
We offer those we have remembered into Your loving care.  
May they find rest and refreshment in Your presence as they journey onwards.  
May any discord with them be brought into harmony through You, on both sides  
of the veil.

<sup>2</sup> May our love for them never fade.  
We thank You for their positive influences on our life,  
And may we pass those influences on to others in turn.  
Bless them now with your peace, until we are all joined together in You.

**All: Amen.**

<sup>2</sup> Now let our celebration which began in peace, end in peace.

*Everyone in the circle holds hands once more.*

**Blessings of the God of Green Hope fill us with joy and peace**  
**Blessings of the One who made the Hunter's Moon fill our storehouses**  
**Blessings of the Bright Morning Star guide us through the darkness**  
**Blessings of the Holy One work through us.**

<sup>1+2</sup> And may the velvety darkness of the Eternal One give you peace during this  
season.

<sup>1</sup> Go forth in peace, taking the light we have received and with it be a light to  
others in turn during our journeys with the Eternal One.

<sup>2</sup> Amen, so may it be.

**All: Amen, so may it be.**

*Please extinguish all candles at the end of the ritual safely, either letting them burn down  
completely (in a safe manner) or by snuffing them out (not blowing, for breath is symbolic of  
a life not yet extinguished).*