

## **Friday Evening Prayer (autumn)**

*(Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim, Edward Hays, Forest of Peace Books, Inc., 1989, p. 71)*

**Opening Song:** “Christ, Be Our Light” (*Breaking Bread* #557 (454) verses 1–3)

*Sacred gesture: Leader 2 rings the bells, Leader 3 places a globe at the sacred space, Leader 1 lights the candles*

**Leader 1:** O God, the darkness of this autumn night is lit by holy fire as candles flicker on Shabbat tables to welcome Saturday, the Sabbath, as Israel’s Bride. We hear the night wind’s echo in far-off cries from minarets, as the faithful of Allah are called to prayer. A holy night, an evening of prayer, is this Friday, and we add to these prayers of Your Jewish and Islamic children, our prayer of the heart.

*A time of silent prayer or meditation*

**Leader 2:** My our hearts pulse in rhythm with the drum beats of Hopi Indians, with Hindu flutes that delight in Krishna and the chimes of Buddhist temple bells, as we also praise You, our God.

**Litany for the Religions of the World** (Leader 3)

*Use handout from Encounter World Religions Centre, 390 Speedvale Ave. E., Guelph, ON N1E 1N5, 519-822-0099, [encounter@worldreligions.ca](mailto:encounter@worldreligions.ca), or [www.worldreligions.ca](http://www.worldreligions.ca)*

**Leader 1:** Holy Father and Mother of the children of this earth, hear the many prayers that flood this autumn night. Mindful of the wondrous unity of the chorus of Your devoted people, we humbly ask these favours: ...

**Leader 2:** When we pray for others, they are in our heart. So in an act of Holy Communion, let us pray for the needs of those who are dear to us: ...

**Leader 3:** And we make our own, the needs of those who are trapped in poverty and ignorance, those whose life spans are cut short by a lack of food or medicine and those for whom this day has been a heavy burden.

**Leader 1:** In this autumn season of gratitude for the fruits of this earth, we give You thanks for the gifts of this Friday. Full of thanksgiving, we seek to overflow with pardon for all who may have caused delay or disturbance, pain or injury on this fall day.

**Leader 2:** Lean near and close our eyes with Your compassionate touch so that we can sleep this night as we hope to sleep in death: anointed in Your love and at peace with all.

**Leader 3:** Blessed are You, O Harvest of our hearts, Sacred Source of all life, Ever-watchful Guardian of our sleep.

**All:** Amen!

*Sacred gesture: All turn and make a cross of the forehead of the person on each side.*

**Closing Song:** “Christ, Be Our Light” (*Breaking Bread* #557 (454) verses 4 and 5)