

The Holy Days

LEVITICUS 21-24

The Lord has appointed a day of solemnity for us
in the fall, when we must drop our pretenses,
as the maples drop their scarlet leaves
into the rain pools;

God has chosen a day of remembrance for us in the spring,
when we must remember Egypt, as the returning robins
remember their nesting places,
as the splashing salmon their spawning grounds.

Knowing the unpredictable succession of sunshine
and turbulence in the human heart,
the Lord has appointed every seventh day
the season for thoughtfulness, the sabbath,
the day of rest.

But for the sanctification of the name of God,
there is no season, and for martyrdom
there is no appointed day.

In the best of times and in the cruelest of times,
others have demanded of us, and God has not denied us
the giving of our lives.

We pray that no days shall ever again be like the days
of German power and Roman empire;

We pray to be able to sanctify the name of God
in our lives, at His appointed seasons,
and not in our deaths.