



## **God of Growth** (adapted from a selection by Joyce Rupp)

**Response: God of growth, remind us you are near.**

God, Once again I find myself at an ending and a new beginning, full of mystery, sometimes pain, and a certain aching wonder. **Response**

I hear you calling me to embrace this new beginning, to turn over the soil of my life, making it ready for your planting. **Response**

Give me vision to see beyond the empty earth in my hands, to believe in the flower that will come. **Response**

I want to live and to love the mystery of living.

There is newness and wonder in discovering myself as a unique person, created out of love; in respecting and loving the secret of who I am. **Response**

But this wonder can be experienced only if I have courage allow You to be the tiller of my soil, breaking apart that which has been whole and hardened, softening the way for new growth. **Response**

God give me courage. Help me trust your goodness in all the situations of my life. **Response**

I hold up to you in prayer the struggle and the beauty of my humanity. Bless the growth that I will experience this year, that it may bring me closer to you. **Response**

Like the seed that cycles through life, my birth was just the first step along a journey of repeated dyings and rebirths. Like the seed, may I abandon myself to the cycle of Your presence in my being. **Response**

I hear now another call to die and to live more deeply, more wholly, more fully; a call to be open and free. **Response**

O God, it takes so long to bring all of myself to birth-- a lifetime-- and I become impatient. This anxiety I feel -- it's healthy, you say? It's all right? It's a part of being human? It's shaping my heart like yours? **Response**

Ah yes, God, let me not fear the mistakes or the failures or the anxieties that come with growth; rather, let me see in the struggle of being human the signs and the strength of your cross and your resurrection. **Response**

**ALL: Let all of us recognize your presence and your tender love in this ever changing, ever growing, garden of our lives. AMEN.**