

Harvest, 2011

Dear Friends,

“Praise we the Lord, who made all beauty/ for our senses to enjoy”:

these are words from an old praise “carol” (a song with a religious impulse). Sometimes we have a very somber view of our faith and of God and we don’t tend to think of our senses as something for which to be thankful; our senses belong to the worldly realm and not the heavenly; they are separate from our faith life. Perhaps in these modern times it is more important to give thanks for our senses.

Consider all that would be lost to us without sight or hearing: art and music, sunsets, the voice of someone we love. We can’t enjoy food without a sense of smell or taste all the variety of foods we have available to us today. And touch – the feel of velvet or soft fur; just stroking a pet calms us.

Is God really interested in things that give us pleasure or have we so compartmentalized our lives that God is for our ultimate salvation but not for the here and now? Is our faith so restricted that the idea that God

“loves to see young lovers,/ fresh hearts that swell with youthful pride”,

as the same carol goes on to say, a complete contradiction to all the rules we have been taught to believe?

Our God is not just there for the difficult times, the sad times, the so called sacred times. He rejoices with us in times of celebration, in holy moments of love and birth. The carol urges us to

“thank him who gives to each one power/To find a friend to know and love.”

Have we thought to give thanks for **all** that God gives us;

to “praise him who by a simple flower/ Lifts our hearts to things above”?

This harvest thanksgiving let us give thanks for those things we have taken for granted: our five senses, the joy of love and friendship, and the presence of God in each and every one of our human activities.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fran Kovar,

An envelope for your thank offering is attached.