Connecting New

December, 2021

Christmas is fast approaching and for many of us it contains loss and grief...for those who will not be with us this year, for the traditions that cannot be continued, for the undercurrent of fear and sadness that lingers with the pandemic. AND for many of us the holidays will bring some semblance of resurrecting the holiday traditions we treasure and reconnecting with loved ones after months and perhaps years of distance.

This month I share a poem about the holidays that I hope resonates with you, that the holidays are really about reinforcing and celebrating the loving relationships in our lives. And, although there are indeed special occasions for this to happen, it is also quite true that whenever love is shared it is a special occasion.

Holydays

Christmas is on the day our family gathers regardless of the date on the calendar. Thanksgiving is on the day my wife and daughter cook together.

The highlight of Advent is shopping with my daughter and sharing a fancy lunch. And Halloween happens each time I secretly slip my grandson a piece of candy. Eucharist blossoms whenever we enjoy a meal with friends and grace appears each time I am aware of Love's presence, and even more, when I help others to be more aware of Love's presence, making each and every day holy.

May the celebration of love enter our lives each day more and more completely and may we give what we receive over and over again.

Peace and Blessings, Clarence

If this has been forwarded to you and you would like to receive future Connecting New emails, <u>subscribe here</u>. An archive of past emails can be found on the Connecting New page of <u>www.clarenceheller.com</u>. Also, if you do not already receive A Piece of Goodness, a positive and often provoking daily excerpt from one of Clarence's poems, with convenient access to the entire poem for those who wish to engage it, <u>subscribe here</u>.