A Lover's Psalm
WE WILL DO THIS PSALM RIGHT SIDE FIRST, LEFT SIDE SECOND

Right side
O Ever-present Beloved,
   My soul sings and my body rejoices
   That you are the flesh and bone of my life.

Left side
You are the ever—youthful life-seed
   At the core of all that grows.

Right side
I bow before you, Gracious God,
   That while you are greater than this vast universe,
   You are also the innermost essence of every being.

Left side
I delight that you are the fiery force
   That gives the flowers their beauty;

Right side
You are the life giving wetness of water
   And the warmth of the sun;

Left side
You are the breath of all living things
   And the fertile soil out of which
   all things draw their life-nourishment.

Right side
The blood in my veins races madly,
   And my heart drum-beats like thunder
   At the very hint of your holy voice.

Left side
I hear you in the song of birds,
   In the gurgle of flowing water,
   In the rush or the whisper of the wind.

LEFT AND RIGHT SIDE TOGETHER
You are here,
   With me and in me
   And all around me.

"Used with Permission"
A Sunset Psalm of Turning

Slowly we are turning once again
  To look into the dark, star-sprinkled space
Through which our planet is traveling,
All life is aware of the approaching view,
  and the sunset beauty of this day’s end
An overture to the awesome grandeur
Of the eternal vision that awaits us.

As the earth turns outward,
  May my thoughts turn inward
To the Sacred Mystery that dwells in my heart.
At the end of this year
  I sing a song of thanksgiving
For the wonder of life.
I lift up my voice in gratitude
  For all this year has held for me
As I turn my memory to its flood of gifts.

Blessed are you, Divine Mystery,
  Who has chosen to dwell within me
And has enriched this year
  With some sorrows,
  But also with zestful life, beauty and love.

Blessed are you, O God,
  Most blessed are you.
A Psalm of New Wine Skins  Listen/Let the Psalm speak to you

Comfortable and well-worn are my daily paths
  Whose edges have grown gray
  With constant use.
My daily speech is a collection of old words
  Worn down at the heels
  By repeated use.
My language and deeds, addicted to habit,
  Prefer the taste of old wine,
  The feel of weathered skin.

Come and awaken me, Spirit of the new.
Come and refresh me, Creator of green life.
Come and inspire me, Risen Son,
You who make all things new:
  I am too young to be dead,
  To be stagnant in spirit.

High are the walls that guard the old,
  The tried and secure ways of yesterday
  That protect me from the dreaded plague,
  The feared heresy of change.
For all change is a danger to the trusted order,
  The threadbare traditions that are maintained
  By the narrow ruts of rituals.

Yet how can an everlastingly new covenant
  Retain its freshness and vitality
  without injections of the new,
  The daring and the untried?

Come, O you who are ever-new,
  Wrap my heart in new skin,
  Ever flexible to be reformed by your Spirit.
Set my feet to fresh paths this new year
  Inspire me to speak original and life-giving words
  And to creatively give shape to the new.

Come and teach me how to dance with delight
  Whenever you send a new melody my way.
A Feast Day Psalm  Right side first.  Left side second.

RIGHT AND LEFT SIDE TOGETHER
O Blessed One who created calendars and clocks,
Come and show me how to make each hour a feast.

Right side
May the meals I share each day
  Be true adventures of taste.
Let me delight in every flavor
  As a special gift of the moment.

Left side
May each day of this new year be a feast for my eyes
  As I drink in the vast range
  Of the colors, forms and textures
  Of all the things I see.

Right side
Gift me in this new year
  With fresh-cleansed eyes,
  Open to beauty and alive with wonder.

Left side
In this newyear
  May my ears feast as well.
Unplug them of habit – the deafness of routine –
  So that the whisper of the wind,
  The soft sounds of gentleness,
  The magic of human speech
  and the healing laughter of mirth
  May enter my mind and heart.

Right side
On this feast of the new year
  May I also feast as never before
  In the joy of those I love
  And with whom I share my life.

Left side
May each day be a holiday of love for our community.

RIGHT AND LEFT SIDE TOGETHER
In these and in all ways
May this year created by you be truly a feast year.