Tov L’hadot L’Adonai
By Rabbi Debra Cantor, B’nai Tikvoh-Sholom, Bloomfield, CT

It is good to give thanks.
To lift our eyes upward
To hillsides still draped
In deep browns
And maroons of late autumn,
A rich, fleeting beauty
Before winter’s snows.

It is good to give thanks.
To inhale the crisp air
Laced with woodsmoke and peat,
To feel welcome warmth as we venture inside,
To sniff the aromas of savory gravies,
Of nutmeg and cinnamon, berries and wine.

It is good to give thanks.
To be seated at tables with friends
And with family,
To join hands and embrace,
To share smiles and stories,
To count all our blessings,
To recall cherished loved ones
Who no longer sit here,
Grateful for memories,
And the gift of their lives.

It is good to give thanks.
For the land that we live in,
With its promise of freedom
And justice for all.
For the visions we share
And the strength that You give us
To work as Your partners
To fix what is broken,
To bring healing and hope
To those in despair.

For this joyous gathering,
For coming together
To praise the Creator,
Extending our hands
And raising our voices
In chorus as one.

It is good to acclaim Adonai, to sing Your praise, exalted God,
to affirm Your love each morning, and Your faithfulness each night,
(Psalms 92:2)