

## **Family Dinner**

**by Kathleen Vo**

Christmas at the dinner table.

The complete family.

Everyone flew in from all parts of the world,  
Returning home to celebrate with their loved ones.

There they were,  
In the loud, cramped dining room,  
Shoulders grazing against one another,  
Elbows limited to just a few angles of movement.

Heavenly, homemade aromas filled the air,  
Warming up all of their bodies and souls.  
Festive lights and decorations  
Brought back treasured memories and nostalgic sentiment.

Hungry slurping and eager chewing  
Blended with the clamoring voices trying to overtalk one another.  
Banter about school, marriage, work, and retirement circulated around the table,  
Delightfully sprinkled with affectionate teasing and playful jests.

Relatives from all three generations engaging in the same conversation,  
All bonded by their special stories and inside jokes.  
Their stomachs were filled to the brim,  
But their hearts would never stop craving the laughter that could only be kindled by family.