



CLOSE to
HOME

poetry prayers Advent | Year C

Poetry prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

There are a number of ways to utilize poetry in your ministry. You might print and distribute these prayers to members in your community, or read them aloud to open and close study sessions. In worship, you could offer a poem as an opening reflection, a meditation during the sermon, a moment of reflection after the sermon, or as a written prayer printed in the bulletin. However you utilize these poems, please include credit as follows:

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The First Sunday of Advent

Homesick (HOPE) | Luke 21:25-36

Homesick

How do you describe homesickness to a child?
You don't.
They know.

Children know the feeling of being away from home.
It's fear, dipped in loneliness,
that "What if I've been forgotten?" sonnet,
or the "What if I can't go back?" refrain.
Even a healthy, scrubbed-clean,
showered-with-love child
knows the longing of home.

But if I *had* to.

If I had to describe

that aching feeling, I would say:

"Homesickness is when longing and grief
wrap themselves around you like a blanket.
It's the door to comfort thrown open.
It's an eye on the horizon for what could be
and the only way out is to keep walking,
to keep dreaming,
to keep looking
for signs that will point you back home."

And if you tell that to a child,
you just may realize
that a part of your spirit
has shoes on
and has always been walking,
always been dreaming,
always been looking
for the home that could be.

The door to comfort has been blown open.
Tell God I'm homesick.
I'm on my way.



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

seeking sanctuary (love) | Luke 1:39-55

come on home

We all know the feeling—
the shaky ground,
sinking sand,
water-is-rising,
sun-is-fading feeling
that makes steady breathing
an entire miracle,
and holding back tears
a marvel in and of itself.

And when those days come,
I call my parents.
And I call my church,
and I call my friends,
and they say in unison
what God has said
from the very beginning,
which is, “Come on home.”

Is there anything more healing
than an open door?
If you're seeking sanctuary,
if the waters are rising—
listen.

It may be hard to hear,
but God is always saying,
“Come on home.”

