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## Prayer for an Aging Widow, Christmas Eve

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## **Prayer for an Aging Widow, Christmas Eve**

The tired late gray light of hollow worlds  
Submits, so spiritless, to quiet snow  
Which blankets brittle grass or tortured burls  
Of barren trees or man's abandoned hoe  
With restful refuge, innocent and old.  
Thus all the taut, tried earth is hidden deep  
From storm's impatient tread, careless and bold;  
Beneath the snow all weariness may sleep.

Tonight the world's children dance, embrace,  
In radiant, pulsing circles brimmed with life;  
But you, you gave so much with silent grace  
That now, a sapless tree stoic in strife,  
You stand aside and cannot watch them sing:  
Your heart must pause and rest before the Spring.

Kimberly Simons  
WC '93