

STRUGGLING AGAINST THE DARK

Three weeks of cloudy skies,
 More rain than earth can hold or rivers can carry,
 Evenings filled with dark, mornings filled with gray,
 An unpromising initiation into a season filled with

Meetings

Gatherings

Dinners

Concerts

Church Services

Lunches

Christmas cards

Decorating

Presents

Wrapping

Waiting for space, waiting for the light.
 Events to plan, opportunities to create,
 Wanting to connect, feeling fragile and scattered,
 Sensing deeper waters too cold, too troubling to explore.

From the deep waters, the earth religion calls,
 Demanding strength, providing vision,
 In exchange for the courage to risk:
 Passion
 Engaging body and spirit,
 Plunging them into new realms
 Embracing the familiar and charting the unexplored;

Anger

Crying out against the pain,
 Demanding access to opportunities,
 Insisting upon respect;

Desire

Sending the spirit in many directions,
 Finding pleasures within its grasp,
 Yearning for those beyond its reach.

The spirit stirs in the darkness
 And casts about for traces of light.
 The earth, following its inexorable path,
 Tilts once more in the direction of the sun.
 The days grow longer; the nights grow shorter.
 Darkness passes and gives way to the coming of life.