

*Come Holy Spirit
Use me to Your glory*

Precious Pilgrim,

Recently I was sitting in a reception room at a doctor's office reading a Reader's Digest Magazine while waiting for my appointment. I must admit in the still silence of that office, I probably disturbed everyone for I burst out laughing. I couldn't help myself. I read what Joyce Holbrook wrote, "Feeling proud that one of my haiku had been published by the Kentucky State Poetry Society, I was soon deflated when I read something 14 pages later": "Any moron can write haiku. Just stop at the 17th syllable." Why I found that so funny was that was the only form in which I found I could write when my husband Duncan and I were courting over two years ago, and then after his recent sudden death from a heart attack. Haiku - I don't know why, except maybe I was dealing with so much emotion that the only way I could digest, filter, make manageable these intense times was in this structured form.

Haiku is Japanese poetry. Instead of rhyming words, you count syllables - 1st line has 5, 2nd line 7, 3rd line 5. There should be 17 syllables in all. Today I'd like to share some of the poems I've written since Duncan's death, which was just five months ago. They are in the style of Haiku, but longer.

Pilgrim, I've tried, in our times together, to share my life with you as truthfully as possible. That's all I can give. It's my

prayer that by God's grace, may our Lord Jesus' light shine and encourage, even during this season of grief.

*I do not know why
These circumstances happen
But I do say "yes."*

*To the pain of life
Only then is there blessing.
Duncan, I miss you.*

*Duncan, I want you.
I want to see your blue eyes.
I want to kiss you.*

*I want to hold you.
I do in my heart, you know.
Always, infinite.*

*Afraid and fearful
Over time I will forget
Your exquisite love.*

*That's impossible!
I've been changed, rearranged.
I'm a new person.*

*That can't be denied.
Your love has imprinted me.
I am beautiful.*

*You made me that way.
No, it was the Lord's doing.
You fleshed His love out.*

*Little did I know.
You brought me to His banquet.
You showed me His love.*

*Heart within a heart.
Sensing the part of a whole.
Love within a love.*

*You celebrate me.
We both are "grateful, grateful."
I celebrate you.*

*Known as "the love birds,"
We glowed and shined and shimmered,
A complete union.*

*Lover, companion,
My darling friend and partner,
I can sense you now.*

*In the gentle breeze,
In the birds' song and soaring.
The movement of the leaves.*

*Vibrant, so alive
Exciting to be near you
Your questioning mind.*

*Always the teacher,
Never intimidating,
Just showing the way.*

*Loved following you,
Your strong back, your arms swinging
Your powerful smell.*

*You drew me to you.
You're still drawing me today.
Yearn to be with you.*

*I know that I am.
It's just that you are boundless.*

There are no boundaries.

*You're swimming in love.
Enfolded in the Lord's arms.
He's holding you close.*

*He's holding me too.
It's just a wider expanse.
No, even closer.*

*We're more intimate.
We are part of the body,
Communion of Saints.*

*I did not know it.
Really did not understand.
You brought clarity.*

*Mama, I'm O.K.
Do not worry about me.
I'm strongly fragile.*

*Do you understand?
Wish I had a black armband.
Then people would know.*

*Truly, I'm O.K.
I'm just a little fractured.
It's just that I hurt.*

*Will's talking to Jess.
I want to talk to you, now.
All right, so I will.*

*I'm not miserable.
I will not wallow in pain.
I will honor you.*

*Dwelling in your love,
By the grace of the dear Lord,
I will live strongly.*

*Didn't we have fun?
An extraordinary gift.
Thank you, Father God.*

*"How do I love thee?"
"You are my heart's desire."
"Let me count the ways."*

*TV is blaring
It's thundering outside.
Time to go to sleep.*

*Lord, you are all strength.
You are all delight and light.
"Grateful, Ta, goodnight."*

*Slept like a baby
Had a most wonderful dream
Given a treasure.*

*One to give away
Joy of deciding to whom.
Ah, what a sweet gift.*

*I think it was love,
The kind that Duncan gave me,
You must pass it on.*

*It spreads like wildfire.
Holy Spirit, fall on us,
Kindle and renew.*

*Now it's time for church.
Good family time*

All to Your glory.

*You are in the pain.
Thank you, Lord, for being there.
I know you weep, too.*

*Help, I'm trying to
"Take up my cross and follow."
It's just so heavy.*

*Lord Jesus, I know
You are making all things right.
It's all in Your time.*

*Give me the strength please
To walk this walk without him
It's a hard journey.*

*But Lord, Yours was too.
Use me, please, use me -
Then carry me home.*

*May I draw closer
May I keep my eyes on You.
May I keep the faith.*

*Little Jud told me
"I love you greater than space."
As I read to him.*

*Ah, a wise four-year-old
It's his sister's 1st birthday
Good to be with them.*

*Hate being single
Hate being the odd man out
"What to do with Mom?"*

*That's not what they say.
It's not how they act either.
It's the way I feel.*

*It is my problem.
I loved being a couple
Duncan made me whole.*

*I felt beautiful
I did blossom and flourish
We're still an item.*

*I carry his name.
I continue to wear rings.
We're whole, not a half.*

*I'm whole, not a half.
Mrs. Duncan, John MacLeod
A reality.*

*Don't be pitiful.
A widow is still a wife.
You are being loved.*

*This moment in time
And for all eternity
"Shhh! Be still and know."*

*All is well in Christ
We are united in Him.
It's as it should be.*

Conserve energy

*Enjoy each activity
You know, less is more.*

*Don't dwell in the past
Be present to the present
The Lord meets you here.*

*And so does Duncan
The past has been woven in
It's part of me.*

*Christ Jesus is here
Duncan and I are here, too.
We're all together.*

*I light a candle
To remind me of your love
And the warmth it gives.*

*Fear not, Lucy, fear not
Even though you are tired,
The Lord is with you.*

*He will strengthen you.
Rest, precious child, rest in Him.
Call upon His name.*

*"Abba, Daddy, Lord. -
Pick me up and carry me
Next to Your heart, please."*

*Precious Pilgrim, that's about all the Haiku for today.
Thank you for being with me. One more time, may I read those
last two verses.*

*He will strengthen you.
Rest, precious child, rest in Him.
Call upon His name.*

*“Abba, Daddy, Lord. -
Pick me up and carry me
Next to Your heart, please.”*

*Is that your heart's desire too, Pilgrim? Our Lord will
lovingly sustain. God bless and thank you for being with me.*

Lucy