

*Come Holy Spirit
Use me to Your glory*

Precious Pilgrim,

Recently you learned, Pilgrim, of my precious husband Duncan's sudden, unexpected death from a heart attack. We had 623 days of absolute marriage bliss. He was a gift. His love fleshed out the love of Jesus for me. We ended each day with evening prayer and the words "Grateful, grateful!" for we both felt such gratitude to our Lord God for sending us to each other. Duncan had lost his wonderful wife Betty to cancer. And I had come out of a 29-year marriage through divorce. We both envisioned a single, alone life and then came love - the most exquisite love that I have ever experienced. I continue each and every day with evening prayer and our declaration "Grateful, grateful!" and I will for the rest of my life - for I truly am and will continue to be grateful to the Lord for Duncan.

During this season of grief, it's been 5 months now, I've mainly written Haiku-style poetry. That's Japanese poetry, which, instead of rhyming words, it's written in syllables - 1st line 5 syllables, 2nd line 7 syllables, 3rd line 5 syllables. All I can figure is that this structure seems to help me deal with the many emotions of this grieving season. Our last time together, I read poetry and I'd like to do the same today. There are three poems. The first is:

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

*"Love you forever."
All about relationships
My precious man showed.*

*Loving connections
Christ in him and Christ in me
Joined to make a whole.*

*One in unity
That's all that really matters
Wholeness in Jesus.*

*Lord, may Your light shine
Like moon, lightning, and sparklers
All at the same time.*

*A glorious sight
That you gave to us last night
Darkness into light.*

*Oh, Lord Jesus Christ
May Your Holy Spirit - fill
Help me die to self.*

*Please shine through me, Lord.
"Twinkle, twinkle, little star."
Hold me in Your arms.*

*Tenderly embrace
"How I wonder what you are"
Heal my mourning heart.*

*Fill it with Your love.
"Up above the world so high"
Fill it with Your light.*

*Brighten the darkness
"Like a diamond in the sky"
Use me to Your glory.*

*Then may I come Home
"Twinkle, twinkle little star."
Eternally dwell.*

*Next to Duncan, please
"How I wonder what you are"
If it be Your will.*

*He fleshed out your love
A sliver of Your glory
Abide in my heart.*

*I'm "grateful, grateful!"
"Twinkle, twinkle, little star."
Tell him, "Ta Gorgeous!"
Until—*

The next poem is called A Haiku Prayer. I wrote it on my first trip back to England. Duncan taught American History at Oxford University for 30 years. It is the university's tradition to have a memorial service for their distinguished teachers. I went alone to help plan the service and then, of course, went back with family to attend the service. This prayer was written while staying at "our" hotel in London. I call it "ours" because it was where Duncan and I usually stayed when we visited that grand city.

Now that I've read the poem out loud, "Come Lord Jesus, Come" - the refrain seems to take on a rocking, lullaby-like quality. Our Lord Jesus tenderly rocked me, protected me,

cared for me during this difficult trip and He still continues too and I'm sure does the same for you, Pilgrim. Here's a Haiku poem and:

A Haiku Prayer

*Come, Lord Jesus, come,
Everything flows out of love.
Come, Lord Jesus come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come,
"Love you just the way you are."
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come,
May all work flow out of love
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
All actions out of love, too.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come,
An instrument of Your peace.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come,
An instrument of your love.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
Please change me, rearrange me.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come.
May I say "yes" to Your will.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
May Your wish be my command
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
May inside match my outside
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
What You see is what You get
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
Be totally without guile
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
Your light shines strongly through me.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
Come abide in me,
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
Make my heart Your dwelling place.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
You are welcomed, please enter,
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
They're sins and cobwebs galore
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
Dark spaces, nooks, and crannies,
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
Your Holy Spirit clean
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
Make this abode Your design.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
Fashion me in Your image
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
May I become as You planned
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
I surrender all to you
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
I'm under new management
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
Please be the Lord of my life
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come, Lord Jesus, come
Please be the Love of my Life
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Come quickly—

Amen

Our last poem for the day is called "I Love You Greater Than Space." This was the statement made by my four-year-old grandson Jud Jr. He declared it to me while we were saying his prayers.

I Love You Greater Than Space

*Duncan John MacLeod
"I love you greater than space."
You fleshed out God's love.*

*Whole-hearted approach
An incredible imprint
A totality*

*What does love look like?
How do you envision it?
What sight comes to mind?*

*What exquisite smell?
What extraordinary feel?
What melodic sound?*

*Think touch, tantalize
Explore the impossible
Dream outlandish dreams*

*No boundaries in love
Infinite and fathomless
Rainbow sliding ride*

*Do you sense the joy?
Do you sense the thrill of it?
Ecstasy in peace.*

Do you know a fact?

*Love makes you feel beautiful
Each one of us is*

*A God creation
We are each uniquely made
Sometimes we forget*

*Life dulls our senses
Experience can cloud
Heaviness sets in.*

*But then, but then love
Shimmering, shaking, shining
Comes forth as a dawn.*

*Light pierces the heart
Crackling, melting, healing whole
All is well again.*

*Creative new birth
How the Lord means us to be
Hallowed harmony*

*Bouquets blossoming
Bursting forth with delight
Flowers flourishing*

*"Pah rum papa pum"
Drummer Boy song comes to mind.
"Played my best for Him."*

*He did his best, too.
Positive parallel dance
Each encouraging.*

*"Wow, you're wonderful!"
"You are extraordinary"
"Gosh, you are gorgeous"*

*Our world is a dance
No sense of time, place or space
Intertwined freedom*

*Just there and aware
Of the whole oneness of us
Complete unity.*

*The Lord's universe
Is united in a flash
God's love becomes clear.*

*Have a blessed day, Pilgrim. "I love you greater than
space." Yes! That's a boundless love -- don't you think? And
true love has no boundaries, except those of the cross, which set
love free and flowing. Blessings.*

Lucy