Night Prayer

Pray to the god who holds you,
who has always held you,
pray with breath and skin
for heart's ease,
to know peace, to sleep.

When you spend the night
hunting through your old failures
to love, flipping through crumbling
photos of your stinting and your
grudging, pray for those on whom
you took revenge, from whom
you demanded love but gave none.
Let what softness the night holds
enfold you.

Listen! Sometimes there is birdsong
in a wild place, a bird you've never
seen or heard, a living creature,
your fellow, and sometimes you
will walk into a house filled
with flowers from the garden,
columbine and lupines, and those
you love will welcome you.

~ Margaret O' Donnell