

## SANCTUS

*For Bernie*

Sanctify the remaining sweetness  
of the child,

who is, who was before  
and is yet to come.

Sanctify the seasons in their turn.

Sanctify the deep space  
of being alone.

Holy is the refusal to be cruel.  
Holy is the one who stands aside.

Most blessed is belonging,  
our outstretched hands  
at the communion rail.

Bless our most holy need for love.  
Bless our flesh.

Bless our trying  
to live with faith.

