God, bless those who are afraid –
Not just those who fear
the thunder over the mountains,
the clockwork mouse,
the creditor’s knock,
the runaway tiger,
the criminal at large,
bombs,
a crashed car,
cancer,
an empty stomach,
a child’s danger,
a lover’s death.
But also those who fear
a stranger’s smile
the mob’s chants,
the voice of desire echoing through a
dream, the profanation of a trust,
an impulse to love followed by hate,
your voice thundering through the
garden: “Where are you?”
No voice at all.
God, bless those who are afraid.