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**Silence After El Paso**

Lord of the Still Small Voice,

teach us to watch our words

and warden our weapons.

Grant us the grace

to mind our mouth

and tame our twitter,

so that our lips do not litter

violence and vehemence

in a volatile world.

May we speak boldly for

the ostracized outsider,

the fearful foreigner,

the misunderstood migrant,

and the suffering stranger.

And may we stand silently,

mourning the loss,

of men, women, children, and manners,

as we remember to say nothing

if we have nothing good to say.

Train us to do no harm,

when we seek to help,

Like when we water the plant on the porch,

only to notice afterwards,

that we have flooded the robin’s nest.

***Rev. Jack Amick, April 21, 2021***