A Prayer for 45 Years

Persistent, Uncontainable Spirit,
In every age you have called faithful women,
As you called our foremothers all those years ago,
out of bondage to old ways,
calcified traditions,
and unjust institutions
Into exodus in a wilderness that was as yet uncharted.

They did not know what they would find,
But they knew you promised living water.
They did not know when the journey would end,
But knew you enlivened each step along the way.

Since that time,
We have found the wilderness to be a place of unhindered growth.
Of new forms of life and ministry flourishing,
Nourishing us
As the journey continues.

We have found ourselves,
and found You, O God,
among that which is untamed.
There, we are free:
to be priests to your people
To speak prophetically to power
To persist until justice abounds in the Church that we love.

Many have traveled on this unfinished path
And have returned to the embrace of your arms.
Still new sojourners arrive with fresh energy and hope,
Reminding us that our continued exodus is a journey of promise.

We re-commit ourselves to fidelity to this journey
And to the Spirit in the wilderness who has formed us
So that, at the sound of our voices and the sight of our arms raised in prayer
The stony institutions of patriarchy will crumble
Revealing the living Body of Christ arisen in our varied bodies.

Wild Companion, Earth-Shaker,
May Your fierce love continue to embolden us
To share your sacramental presence so freely
That the Church is drawn out of the sanctuary
And into the holy wilderness with us and with You.

Amen.

by Katie Lacz