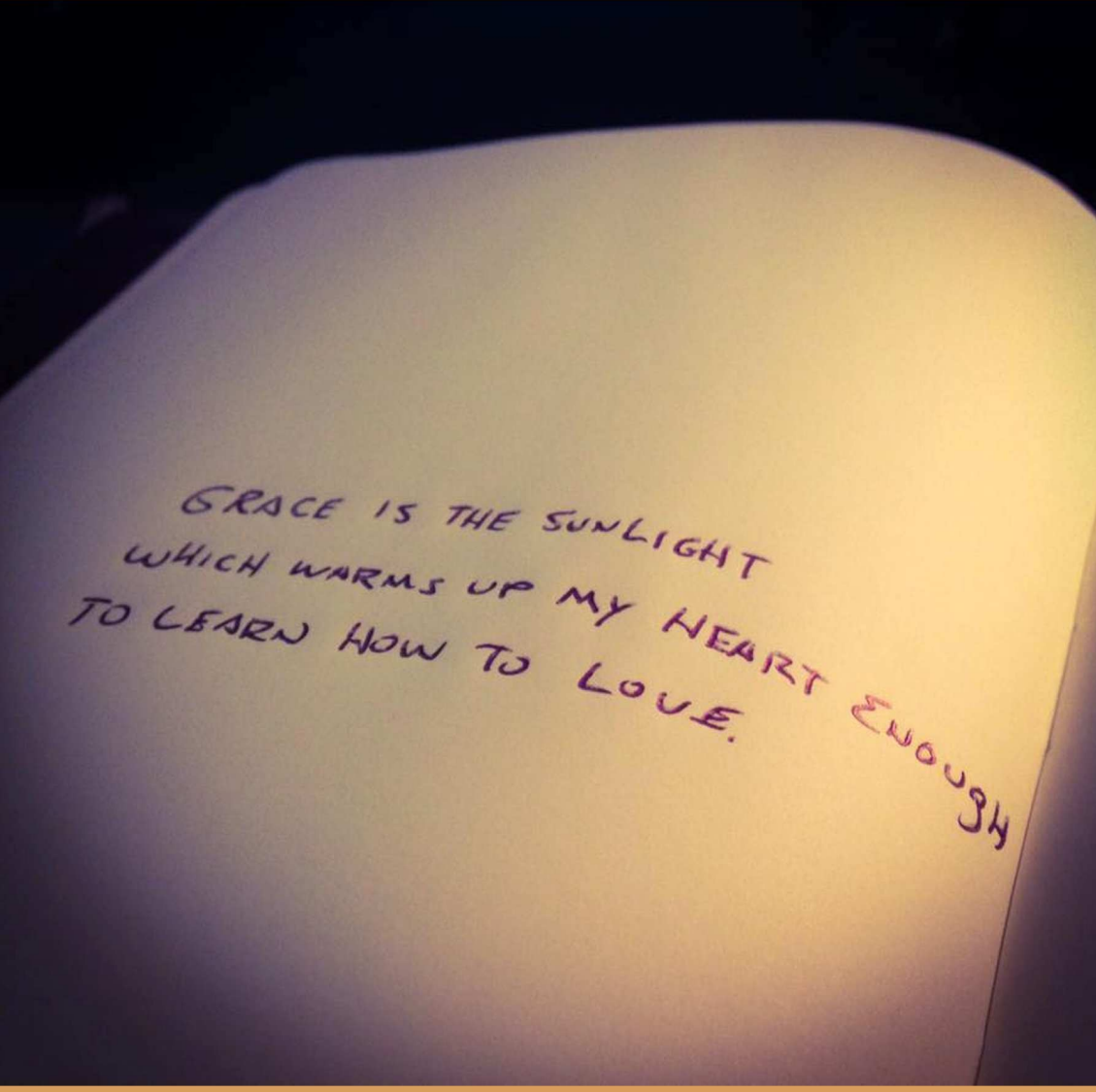


5/7/5  
Haiku Prayers

A photograph of a piece of paper, possibly a page from a book or a card, with handwritten text in blue ink. The paper is slightly curved and has a warm, yellowish tint. The background is dark and out of focus.

GRACE IS THE SUNLIGHT  
WHICH WARMS UP MY HEART ENOUGH  
TO LEARN HOW TO LOVE.

John W. Stevens





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5/7/5 Haiku Prayers

## In Memory of James Hugh Drury

We come together  
Friends who have Christ in common  
Ones touched by God's Grace

We grieve together  
Friends holding each other tight  
In the grip of Grace

We live in the hope  
Friends embracing each other  
In Easter promise

## **Reminders**

Remind me again  
about how much you love me.  
Wrap me in your Grace.

Remind me again  
how nothing can separate  
me from your love, God.

Remind me again  
how even when I mess up,  
You still love me, God.

Remind me again  
that your free Grace is for real.  
Let your Grace soak deep.

# Introduction

In Lent, 2015, I started a practice of writing haiku a day, to help me pray. It was a spiritual practice that forced me to put my thoughts in a fixed container of 5/7/5.

So each day, I wrote and posted haiku under the hashtag, "#haikulent2015," and then "#haikueaster2015," and finally, "#haikuprayers2015".

Haiku prayers became, for me, a way of lifting up my wants, needs, prayers for the world, and my hope for myself and those I love. It is no wonder that the theme of Grace is most prevalently seen in these Haiku.

Thank you for your interest in these prayers, and I hope that you find as much enjoyment in reading them as I have had in writing them. My hope is that, on the other side, you find yourself changed for the better.

John W. Stevens  
November, 2015

Please, when you find out  
just how this thing called Grace works:  
Tell the entire world.



# Lent

Ashes on forehead  
Marking my humanity  
Mirror for the world

The Silence is loud  
You seem absent and quiet  
This day needs to end

I start the journey,  
hoping to find you, my God.  
You find me instead.

Children are laughing  
Listen to the sound of love  
Drift up to heaven

Darkness fell on me  
Darkness fell upon Christ, too  
There Christ will meet us

Two or three gathered  
Jesus Christ is in this place  
The Kingdom has come

My heart is in pain  
from being shattered again  
God, hold me tightly

Pain is a life fact  
We are hurt and hurt others  
Love also exists

Love will heal our pain  
God's grace pours over our wounds  
Heals our hurting hearts

Fed with Bread and wine  
A meal full of Grace and life  
Everyone welcome

Both Saint and sinner  
God meets you in bread and wine  
You are new again

Will you prepare me  
To experience your Grace  
Showered upon me?

Heal my broken heart  
And prepare my mended soul  
To welcome you now.

Fear takes hold of Death,  
for Death sees his own demise.  
Death has been forewarned

They ask you questions  
like, "are you truly a king?"  
You are King to me.

My heart and mouth ask:  
Wondering if you love me?  
Grace overwhelms me.

Hope is a good thing  
It might be the best of things  
Hope in Jesus Christ

I hope to see God  
In neighbor and the stranger  
And in the mirror

Go out in Christ's name  
Be his hands and feet today  
Reaching out to all.

Now we are sent out  
To go into the wide world  
Speaking words of Grace

Healing is from you  
My hurts mended through and through  
Your Grace heals my heart

Know that You are love  
Your Beauty goes to the core  
Made In God's image

Walk with me, Jesus  
Guide me, urge me, please, lead me  
Lead me back to you.

You walk towards me  
I think you're a ghost again  
Call for me to walk

"Trust me," Jesus says  
The storms rage on around me  
You don't let me sink.

Trust is not easy  
I struggle, yet hope in you.  
Change my heart, Jesus.

credit and debit  
what I owe and what I get  
never balances

Credit and Debit  
I am way out of balance  
God will love me still

Guide me in your ways  
Your words turn me back to you  
Take me by the heart

God, I need practice  
to love myself like you do.  
Give me eyes to see

May Grace renew me  
So I may see the neighbor  
Looking through God's eyes

Yes, We are spoken  
Into very existence  
We are God's story

You lifted me up  
From the depth of my despair  
My God, I thank you

All my groans are heard  
Spirit intercedes for me  
My words lifted up

Abide in my heart  
Spirit of the living God  
Fall afresh on me

Faithful God of ours  
please hold us close to your heart.  
Let us hear your Grace.

I worship today  
and cracks form in my armor  
so my heart can heal

I trip and stumble  
My transgression shows again  
God, I need your Grace

You are a witness  
To God's outpouring of love  
When you least expect

Broken promises.  
God, I break my word to you.  
Good thing we have Grace.

My heart is broken  
I have been betrayed again  
by my reflection

God, you hold me tight  
Broken not beyond repair  
You whisper to me.

Many ways to serve  
And moments are made holy  
Living Christ is here.

The word "sad" hits home.  
It speaks the whole truth I feel.  
I need a new word.

You left and I cried.  
Heart is tremendously sad.  
Love hurts bad right now.

I was sad today  
and Jesus' arms held me tight.  
I felt hurt vanish.

I was sad again.  
I saw Christ in the neighbor.  
Heart healed a little.

Those sad eyes watch me,  
as I bandage up hurt knees.  
Sadness dissipates.

"Follow me," Christ says  
Does he mean drop everything?  
Let go, and let God.



Jesus walks ahead  
I follow in his footsteps  
Being more like Christ

You will follow me.  
Is that question or command?  
Depends on the day

Jesus' devotion  
to the world's transformation  
is seen in the cross

Devotion to God  
Focuses my eyes to see  
Through cross-shaped glasses

My Heart is broken  
Home shattered with hurt and pain  
Longing for my God

Home is many things  
From house, heart and another  
Grace forming the place.

"Come Home," my God calls  
"And where is home found?" I ask.  
"Folded in My Grace."

I find home in bread  
I also find home in wine  
God says, "Welcome home!"

Be my home and peace.  
Sheltering me in your Grace.  
I am home again.

Spirit, enter in.  
I ask you to guide my steps  
Make home in my heart

May we proclaim Grace  
Speaking love in the darkness  
Light breaking through us

Full absolution  
for things done and left undone  
God gifts forgiveness

I find the sign sought  
yet wonder, why it is there  
trapped in the mirror

Through baptismal Grace  
Faith's seed planted and watered  
The Spirit descends

I think I wander  
far away from your presence.  
You never left me.

The gift called this life  
has paths in which we wander  
and I am thankful.

Promises of Lent  
broken the very first day  
shows God my frailty

"Promise," I told God.  
And I broke it right away.  
Grace - God still loves me.

Grace is a promise  
That no matter your failings  
You are always loved

# Easter

Resurrected life  
Our sealed tombs are cracked open  
Death is defeated

This is a new day.  
And yet, your promise holds firm.  
You surprise me, God

You surprise us, God.  
By the pouring out of love  
Claiming us with Grace

Grace given to us  
Generosity of Christ  
Spirit moves our hearts

I lost sight of you  
But, God, you never lost me  
You restore my sight.

These cross-shaped lenses  
help restore my sight each day  
Washed by the Spirit

God, sight-restorer  
Help me see me as you do  
With new Grace-filled eyes

Water like smooth glass  
Stillness beckons me closer  
To see God's beauty.

Quiet mind, God's gift  
Stillness of Spirit has come  
Welcome, Holy One

I look to you, God  
My fear has held me captive  
You have rescued me

I was paralyzed  
Fear gripped me and held me tight  
Grace has rescued me

Rescued from my fear  
I am free of my self doubt  
Grace holding me tight

Love in Abundance  
It's almost overwhelming  
That's why it's called Grace

Hibernating faith  
Longs for the winter to end  
And for Spring to come.

Grace is like the Spring  
Causing new life to sprout up  
From cold winter ground

Awaken in me  
A sense of awe and wonder  
Found in empty tomb

To be like you, Christ  
This is my prayer for today  
Help me act like you.

True community  
Shaped with bread, wine and water  
breathed to life by You

Freedom from and for:  
From the things that have bound me  
For a life of Grace

Jesus brings this gift:  
Freedom from guilt, shame, and fear.  
Christ's Amazing Grace.

The day says goodnight  
As sunset is upon us  
God's painted canvas

The distant Sunset  
Deep red, orange, and mystic pink  
God's hand paints the sky



The pain of the day  
Vanishes like the Sunset.  
Joy found in the dawn.

In my heart of stone,  
Listening deep for your Grace.  
Did you know stone melts?

Listening for you,  
What do you want me to hear?  
"Child, You are enough."

I am listening.  
My own words fail me tonight.  
God, speak to my heart.

Wholeness is a gift  
Beyond health and beyond me.  
It is spirit deep.

I pray for wholeness  
For that which is beyond me  
"Make me whole, Jesus."

What looks empty now  
is the seed for our wholeness,  
watered with your Grace.

"I love you deeply!"  
God speaks these words once again  
Because we forget

For God, here is truth:  
love is never just past tense  
Then, now, forever.

"Love me," heart cries out.  
It listens for the answer  
God whispers, "I do!"

More than do and don't,  
God wants a relationship  
with all God's people

Our relationships  
overflowing with God's Grace  
makes this holy ground

This relationship,  
the one God calls us into,  
will transform the world.

Serve one another  
Serve stranger, neighbor, and Christ  
Called to holy work

When did I serve Christ?  
"Do you want fries with this meal?"  
unexpected ways

I long for the thing  
that people call contentment  
which I call God's gift

We seek Contentment  
Poured out from God and from life  
It is gift of Grace.

Open my heart, God.  
I have closed it up real tight.  
Roll away the stone.

Open and waiting,  
Jesus' arms are spread out wide.  
God welcomes us all.

Roll out wonder, God.  
Lightening, thunder, and rain.  
Amazement abounds

Your hand is at work,  
creating for our wonder.  
I stand here in awe.

You say you love us  
To our amazement it's true  
Grace abounds from you.

"Touch my hands and side,"  
Jesus speaks words to Thomas.  
My Lord and my God.

As I touch your fringe,  
I am made more than just healed  
I am now made whole

Use me, gracious God  
To be your hands in this world  
To touch the outcast.

We are your children  
Claimed by you, and then sent out  
To serve your whole world

You love your children  
Calling us to protect them  
For they are your light

Tenderness of heart,  
God embraces joys and fears  
found in the whole world.

Quiet my soul, God.  
Help me; My thoughts are scattered.  
Center me in you.

God, it is quiet.  
I stop, and take it all in.  
I listen for you.

The kids are quiet.  
They plan mischievous things.  
God, you understand.

Your abundant love  
is poured out over the world.  
It's Grace upon Grace.

Your laughter explodes  
Out of which will come the world  
The Creator smiles

Live in the Rainbow  
One beam of light clarified  
into its glory

Light shines in darkness  
Light shines with rainbow colors.  
We are those colors.

I remain steadfast  
In my hope for all the world  
Because of your Grace.

I pray, "Remain here."  
In my hurt, joy, and sorrow.  
Wrap me in your Grace.

"Remain," Christ asks me.  
"Remain faithful and awake."  
I sleep, Christ remains.

God's vision of Grace  
Extends beyond my desire  
Which is why it's Grace

God give me vision  
to see the ordinary  
as your holy gift

I don't see you, God  
My vision needs correction  
Let me look through Grace

Light shines through the cracks  
Those flaws I have tried to hide,  
Yet God seems to use.

The light shines on us  
Bathing our hurt hearts with Grace  
Shattering darkness

Sand between your toes  
You meet us to eat breakfast  
Fish and charcoal flame

We eat together  
Cross the lines that divide us  
With a holy meal

Breath of life is here  
Spirit fills this very room  
The space in my heart

Church is created  
Spirit's presence pulls us in  
Makes us Christ's body

Christ enters the room  
Jesus' presence fills us all  
We are his body

Locked in upper room.  
Fear keeps me here, in my tomb.  
Christ's peace still finds me.

Monday of new life  
hold onto hope for this day:  
the tomb is empty!

"Enough!" I had said.  
Thinking my God said the same.  
Not hearing, "You Are..."

I search my spirit  
I doubt and yet I worship  
Christ is present here



# Haiku Prayers

Leaves carried by wind  
Reminds me of the Spirit  
Drawing us to God.

God, draw us to you.  
Like the wind carries the leaves,  
move us where you will

Wind blows on my face  
Spirit moves within my heart  
God, please move my feet.

I feel torn apart.  
Heart breaks under weight of guilt.  
Grace redeems me still!

Water pours from sky.  
Reminding me of your love.  
Infusion of Grace.

God, reform my heart  
Turn my heart of stone to clay  
Mold it as you will

I need you, Jesus.  
Feel embarrassed to say that.  
But I need you now.

I wait on you, God  
As I listen for your voice,  
clear my heart from hate.

Grace makes us all Saints.  
You have claimed us with your love.  
Now, let me respond!

I seek you out, God!  
Looking for you in darkness.  
May your light cut through!

Never us and them  
It's always me turned to we  
God erases lines

God of the stranger,  
of the outcast and the poor,  
remind us of that.

Rain falls upon me.  
God, remind me: with water  
You claim and not shame.

Voices all around.  
Help me quiet all but yours!  
God, speak to my heart.

Thank you, Jesus Christ  
For giving us hearts to love  
and not giving up.

Senseless tragedy  
rips open our hearts again  
Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

We worship you, God,  
in our hearts, with what we say,  
and with our actions!

Savior of the world  
You cross all lines that we draw  
Showing us your Grace.

My heart was restless.  
God's Grace has claim on my heart.  
I rest in Christ's love.

The things in this world  
can be quite scary for me.  
Calm my soul, Jesus.

God, I struggle now  
with the "love thyself" command.  
Help me see like you.

God, you go with me  
to dark places of my soul  
Grace vanquishes dark.

I give you thanks, God  
for gifts of love and Grace and  
people who share them!

I want to follow,  
but the path looks very rough.  
Help me trust in You.

So much to do, God.  
Help me turn to you this day,  
and gift me your peace.

I people watch and  
am amazed at what I see:  
Christ all around me!

I have nothing left,  
and I come to you threadbare.  
God, clothe me in Grace.

I draw many lines,  
To keep people in or out.  
God, erase these lines.

My cup overflows,  
full of Grace and gratitude  
for you and your love.

Voices from the past,  
speak all about your future:  
You are loved by Christ!

Help me, God, to see  
that in your promise of Grace,  
You make me enough.

Nothing separates.  
God's Grace is everlasting.  
This is Christ's promise.

Worries take over.  
Help me carve out space for you.  
Spirit, come to me.

Foot is in my mouth  
I try to redeem myself  
Thank you, God, for Grace

"Wait for me," I cry.  
The world has gone on ahead.  
God holds out both hands.

Morning Gratitude.  
Lifting up thanks for your love.  
Let me love like you.

You have planted me  
Next to the living waters  
And you feed my soul

"You are my delight,"  
God says again and again  
Through the gift of Grace

Delight in God's Grace  
For Christ takes delight in you  
Embracing your heart

Fear has me watching  
my feet, so I don't stumble.  
God, move my gaze up!

God, bring about growth.  
We wait for you with breath held.  
We call for your Grace.

God, please center me.  
Let me focus on your Grace  
So I may breathe joy.

I am very tired  
God, I need your strength and Grace  
You show up again.

Friend's loving embrace.  
A caring conversation  
These are your ways, God.

Tears close to surface  
Heart tired from this sadness  
I fight the numbness

My Heart is tender  
I reach out, touch who I love  
And I pull them close

"You are loved," God said  
And I look for someone else.  
"I'm talking to you!"

Bright orange and red leaves  
Remind me of burning bush  
And God's voice speaking

Bright red and orange leaves  
Reminds me again of Grace:  
Forgiveness Reboot



"Be my God," I cry  
"I have been," God says smiling,  
"from the beginning!"

Please be with my heart.  
Be my hope and be my peace  
You are, before asked.

"This is holy ground."  
"It is," God says, "where you stand."  
All ground is holy.

Our praise rises up  
From our lips to the heavens,  
Our Hearts expanding.

Creation has sung  
praise to you, creator God,  
In all its splendor.

I have needed God  
to come rescue me from me.  
Praise be for God's Grace.

"Here I am, send me!"  
So God does, and says to me:  
"Go where I send you!"

Your love will go out  
To the corners of the earth  
Reaching out in love

Living water streams  
That flow from your heart, Jesus  
And bring life to us

Streams of water flow.  
From it, the tree's roots drink deep.  
Fruit for this season.

From Christ's heart streams Grace;  
much like life-giving water  
that quenches our thirst.

I raise my lament.  
I am angry at my God.  
God responds with Grace.

My heart breaks in two.  
Out of the cracks comes lament.  
I long for my God.

You are Sneaky, God!  
Your Grace works into our hearts  
In Amazing ways!

Your love has found me  
I trip and stumble once more.  
God claims me again.

Let me breathe in Joy  
and Let me exhale Kindness  
For in that, I'm whole.

God, I am struggling  
with these commandments of yours.  
I give thanks for Grace!

I am lost for words.  
I try to pray; nothing comes.  
God, help me listen.

God, I need your help  
I struggle to do your will.  
"I know. I love you."

Grace found in this day,  
will arise in many ways.  
God, give us clear sight.

I struggle with faith  
Yet, I lift it up to you  
Help me grow, Jesus.

You are serious?"  
And God grinned at my question  
"Yep, I will use you!"

God has named you, "Loved."  
God has called you, "Lovable."  
God won't change God's mind.

God's Amazing Grace.  
God has snuck in through the cracks  
of my broken heart.

These Grace filled moments.  
Moments that will surprise us.  
Our God is sneaky!

God said, "I love you!"  
I laughed hard at this comment.  
God wasn't joking.

I see Fall and know  
that we all can start anew.  
Leaves and Shame are shed.

My heart was guarded.  
God, you are sneaky with Grace.  
You found your way in!!

God, You walk with me  
Mindful of ways I stumble  
Yet, you are patient.

Help me be mindful  
Of your work in the whole world  
Hidden to my eyes

My heart and mind fail.  
Make me mindful of your Grace  
Which never leaves me

As a Child of God,  
gather at the kid's table.  
Be fed with God's Grace.

God is surprising:  
Mending hearts and clearing paths  
Sneaky God of Grace.

Just as Sarah laughed,  
I laugh at God's promises.  
God still follows through.

God, you create love.  
The Grace that pours out from you:  
Our love is but hints.

Running on empty.  
Even coffee doesn't help  
Thankful for God's Grace

World has felt quite dark.  
A single ray of Christ's Light  
cracks open my sky.

Gathered together,  
We become Christ's body now.  
May we extend Grace.

You said you would call.  
I have listened; heard nothing,  
just sounds of neighbors.

God created us.  
God spoke and said, "You are good."  
Grace reclaims our hearts.

God speaks to my heart.  
One phrase knits it together.  
Grace says, "You are loved!"

I feel like a child  
I need to feel you near me.  
Gift me Grace and Friends.

I look for you, God  
I long to feel you near me  
Gift me heart and eyes.

The Word became flesh.  
God spoke with a voice of Grace:  
Christ says, "You are loved."

Love: glimpse of God's Grace.  
It feels amazing to love,  
And to receive love!

(Re)member me, God.  
(Re)form me in your image.  
(Re)claim me as yours!

Wrestle with failings  
until your Grace intercedes  
looking like a friend

I have been wrestling  
I think it is with my God  
But it is with me!

God's Grace transforms us.  
Takes heart which is petrified;  
creates it anew.

Streams of water flow  
From it, the tree's roots drink deep.  
Fruit for this season.

From Christ's heart streams Grace;  
much like life-giving water,  
that quenches our thirst.

You have sent me, God.  
Some days, I don't want to go!  
Christ still goes with me.

Wind blown waves crash in.  
Shelter me from the chaos.  
Cover me with Grace.

Shame wants to claim me.  
God also wants to claim me.  
God will always win.

Christ, I give you thanks:  
For the love that fills our hearts,  
True wonder of Grace.

Three dance together  
God leading by example  
Laughing, hand in hand



You uplift our hearts  
which long to know of your love.  
Your Amazing Grace.

Uplift my Spirit.  
Please, Jesus Christ, come to me.  
Make home in my heart.

When I am afraid,  
Your promise is my stronghold.  
God, work in my heart.

The Word became flesh.  
God spoke with a voice of Grace:  
Christ says, "You are loved."

Light shines upon us.  
Illuminating our hearts.  
Seen as we reach out!

The Word became Flesh.  
The Word tented among us.  
Christ, the Living Word

We glimpse your love, God,  
when we reach out to share love.  
Give us eyes to see!

You gift us your Grace  
A free gift that is not cheap.  
Grace changes my life!

Baptismal waters  
drench me to my very core.  
Please help me to grow.

My heart feels so small.  
Help it grow to welcome you,  
found in the neighbor.

We belong to you  
as people wrapped in promise  
We are heirs to Grace

God creates wonder  
Like a child, I am in awe  
watching God's paint brush.

We breathe in the day.  
Taking in that which is gift.  
Exhale gratitude.

Prayers rise up to you  
Questions long for an answer.  
I lean into you.

God, I have no word  
Yet, the Spirit intercedes  
And translates my sighs.

My attention wanes.  
Gift an undivided heart  
To saint and sinner.

Undivided God  
You are so clear on one thing:  
Love of creation!

Christ undivided,  
Confuses those who seek harm  
But Jesus loves them.

You are my strength, God.  
I fade, and find myself weak.  
Yet, you help me stand.

Knees have given way  
The world presses down on me  
God, please be my strength

Yes, I am surprised.  
Just when I thought I was done,  
You give me your strength.

I feel far away  
Something on the horizon  
You running to me

Jesus lifts me up  
as I have fallen, again.  
God's Grace is like that.

I see lots of weeds  
But God, you see something else!  
Grace turns weeds to Wheat

Please, when you find out  
how God's Amazing Grace works:  
Tell world from mountain!

We are wheat and weeds  
Saints and Sinners, at same time  
We are loved, Thank God!

My trail of bread crumbs:  
the world has devoured them.  
Bread of Life, lead me

Jesus, please have mercy!  
Set me free from what binds me  
God, I need your Grace.

Chasm of the heart  
Feel quite distant from you, God  
Grace tightens the gap

I withdraw from You.  
A far off deserted place.  
Yet, You seek me out.

You call each of us  
You equip each differently  
Send us together

Give me a new ear,  
and I hear your Grace-laced words:  
You love everyone

Jesus' wondrous Grace  
Has Enfolded me again  
Christ Reclaiming me.

Come and see the one  
Who takes away all my shame  
And gives me God's Grace!

The Shame the world gives  
Cannot withstand Jesus' Grace.  
I am, "Child of God!"

Prayers rise up to you.  
Questions long for an answer.  
I lean into You.

Meet me at the well.  
I long for living water,  
The gift of your Grace.

God of the desert,  
You give me living water  
For my thirsty soul!

Open our minds, God  
Christ, speak words that expand hearts.  
Spirit, give us life.

This is your day, God!  
"Every day is mine," God says,  
"Sabbath is for you!"

God's Grace is sneaky.  
Grace invades our hearts with truths,  
like we're lovable!

I dwell in your word  
The Living Word will find me  
I trust in you, God.

Ever-Present God  
cast out ever-present fear.  
Replace with your hope.

My words falter, God  
I try to speak, but cannot.  
We sit quietly.

I trust in you, Christ.  
Please, Calm the waves in my soul.  
Bring peace to this place.

I sing a new song  
That Christ has placed in my heart  
Help me lift it up!

Your Grace claims us, God  
You delight in creation,  
And this includes us!

Colors of rainbow  
God shows equal love for all  
May we reflect God

Make me new, Jesus  
Replace the old heart with new.  
Turn my eyes to you

God opens my heart  
which was locked tight for so long  
God's Grace is the key.

You boast about us  
We are your loved creation  
You pour out your Grace

I feel my weakness.  
Help me love like you love me  
God, I need your Grace.

Left all at the cross.  
so I thought; I still hold tight  
Help loosen my grip.

Jesus, you call us  
from where we are found today.  
Give us ears to hear.

Widen the circle -  
cast the net, far and wide.  
God's Love is for all.

Rejoice in the Lord  
Again, I will say, "Rejoice!"  
God's Grace be on you!



Compassion for us.  
That is the look in Your eyes.  
Grace pours from Your heart.

God says, "You are loved!"  
This is the power of Grace  
which our God pours out.

Peace for those far off  
is the promise of our God.  
I need that promise.

I need new glasses  
to see the world as you see.  
Grace-infused lenses

"God, is it too late?"  
God laughs and smiles wide at me  
"Silly." God hugs me.

"Not my will but yours."  
These words sighed by you, Jesus.  
Grace poured out for us.

You cross all the lines  
that I have drawn to exclude  
myself from your Grace.

It has been so long;  
Captive to this that binds me.  
Christ, please set me free!

My soul is heavy.  
The World's worries weigh me down.  
Let me rest in you.

Thought I was broken  
beyond all hope of repair  
but then you showed up

God, you show us love.  
Grace pours out from you always  
We love since we're loved.

Christ, everyone fled.  
Afraid, I would have fled too.  
Grace still overflows.

My heart torn in two  
God, please restore me to new  
Grace has this power.

Jesus, be my strength  
Give me the power to love  
myself and neighbor.

My heart is healing.  
Grace binds pieces together  
stronger than before

Your joy-infused Grace  
Has entered my life full force.  
New life has found me

God, looking for you  
sometimes feels like country song.  
Help me write new words!

Change my heart, O' God.  
I struggle with this love thing  
and me loving me.

Mind wants to serve you,  
But my heart cries out, "Not now!"  
Change my heart, O' God!

Change my heart, O' God.  
I will love my enemy,  
until that means . . . me.

Light shines in darkness.  
Vulnerable and human,  
You tent among us.

Bread, Wine and washed feet  
Jesus serves Judas supper  
Which gives hope to all.

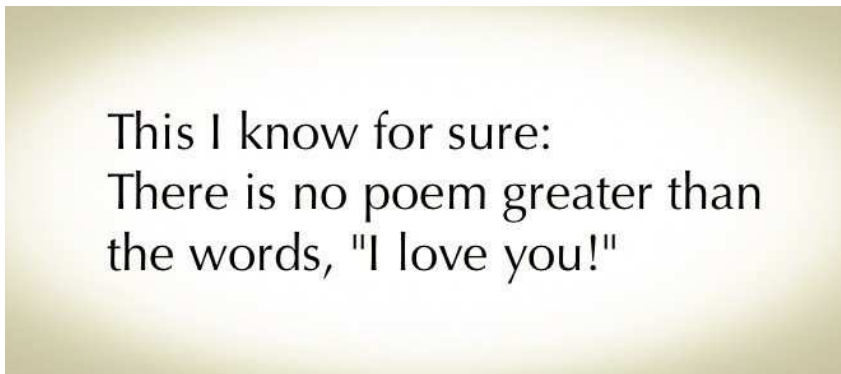
## About the Author

John W. Stevens' first book, "Fall into Life," is a book of poems about faith, life and recovery from broken relationships. It is a collection of poems that give insight into his own journey of healing.

John has been a participant in NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) for three years, and is proud that he has three very rough drafts of novels waiting to be finished.

John is an ELCA Lutheran pastor, sleight of hand magician, poet, avid reader, coffee lover, and father of two brilliant, beautiful, and talented children.

John grew up in Idaho Falls, Idaho, and has lived in Washington, California, Alaska, and currently lives in Oregon City, Oregon. He serves Zion Lutheran Church as their pastor.



This I know for sure:  
There is no poem greater than  
the words, "I love you!"

This book is dedicated to those I love!







My one word haiku  
would need to be pretty good.  
So I pick this: Grace.