

Kairos election

by [Gary Percesepe](#) in the [October 21, 2020](#) issue

Every second is the straight gate through which the messiah might enter. —Walter Benjamin

It's late on earth

The sour smell
of unloved things
haunts our days

Like light
through a wire screen
hope passes through all things

Time is not an empty bright hallway
with a single door
at the end

and events do not line up dumbly
like the beads of a rosary

What we call *now* is
eternally pregnant
with all that has
come before

The present holds
the entirety of the past
shakily in its hand
pulsing with redemption

The struggle for the past
has always already begun

as well as for the future

All who have been erased
cry out to us

Only a god can save us

Heidegger wrote
folding his Nazi suit
lovingly once more
back into its chest
without apologizing

while Benjamin sparked hope
in the past
firmly convinced (a suicide)
that even the dead will not
be safe if the enemy wins

The dead are not safe
and as long as they're not
we are not