

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