

The best said prayers

by [Philip C. Kolin](#) in the [December 2, 2020](#) issue

Somewhere between our soil and his sun,  
between the puddles we drive through  
and the oceans he tunes, somewhere

between flickering streetlights and stars,  
caves and galaxies, the music of the spheres  
and the half notes we play

we think we caught him, calling him away  
from the immanence that surrounds him to heed  
our cries and sew back the fabric of our lives,

like some button on reason's foolscap.  
We believe the fervor of our voices will gain  
the favor he should crown us with,

as if he were the deaf man of the Bible  
dependent on us to fetch Ephphata mud  
to unseal his ear and give us what we want.

Better to have baling wire wrapped tight  
around our tongues to fence in our arrogance.  
The best said prayers are those unspoken,

the most moving, the most unflourished  
and most selfless, unscripted, except for  
our Amens.