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SUSAN MCCASLIN

AN INNOVATION TO GOD THE MOTHER

(To St. Julian of Norwich)

Bless us

God the holocaust mother

God the harried housekeeping mother

God the multi-tasking mother

God the dogged and determined mother

God the mother sleeping fitfully in boxcars

God the roughed up mother

God the mother of anorexic girls

God the singed mother of furnaces

God the mother subsisting on beans

God the mother typing God knows

God the poet mother

God the engineer mother

God the weeping mother

God the fatigued mother

God the wild and sequined mother

God the sweet mother napping

God the crosswise mother dancing

God the resurrected mother singing opera

God the Christly mother

God the born again mother in the stable of suburbia

God the Messiah mother

God the long-awaited mother of messiahs

God the mother saying Kaddish for her mother

God the babbling, pellucid grandmother

God the foreshortened mother

God the motherless mother

God the untamed hyena mother

God the designing mother of looms and tapestries

God the intertidal mother with anemones and starfish in her hair

God the lioness mother in her pride

Bless us Bless us

Susan McCaslin is a poet and Instructor of English at Douglas College in New Westminster, B.C. She is the author of eight volumes of poetry.