

## *Blessed Are You, Winter*

*Blessed are you, Winter, dark season of waiting,  
you affirm the dark seasons of our lives,  
forecasting the weather of waiting in hope.*

*Blessed are you, Winter, you faithfully guard a life unseen,  
calling those who listen deeply to discover winter rest.*

*Blessed are you, Winter, frozen and cold on the outside,  
within your silent, nurturing womb  
you welcome all that longs for renewal.*

*Blessed are you, Winter, your bleak, barren trees  
preach wordless sermons about emptiness and solitude.*

*Blessed are you, Winter, you teach us valuable lessons  
about waiting in darkness with hope and trust.*

*Blessed are you, Winter, season of blood red sunsets  
and star-filled, long, dark nights,  
faithfully you pour out your beauty.*

*Blessed are you, Winter, when your tiny snowflakes  
flurry through the air, you awaken our sleeping souls.*

*Blessed are you, Winter, with your wild and varied moods,  
so intent on being yourself, you refuse to be a people-pleaser.*

*Blessed are you, Winter, when ice storms crush our hearts and  
homes,  
you call forth the good in us as we rush to help one another.*

*Blessed are you, Winter, your inconsistent moods  
often herald spring's arrival, yet how gracefully you step aside  
when her time has come.*