**Listening Creator: A Prayer for Aging Spirits**

-inspired by Psalm 71 and Peterson’s translation in *The Message*

Put your ear to the ground and listen, gracious God—

Listen to the fears that linger in the corners of our restless minds

 And through long dark nights of winter.

Help us enter into the space you offer for salvation,

 a space like a guest room where we can retreat

 and know that you are the safe-guarding, care-sharing host.

We give thanks for—

 You open your door to the young and older,

 And accompany us each aging day.

 You know all about the day of our births,

 And assure us of your presence in this place and beyond--

 past our last breath of earth’s atmosphere

 with promises of your eternal care.

 You created us to change and grow, never the same from one season to the next.

 Help us see these changes of energy and physical being

 as the continuing ripples of birth pangs

 Making us more each day, in your image and likeness

 of wisdom and stature.

 You offer us opportunity to take yesterday’s experience and reflections that you might

 Reveal, remold and refashion the truth we need for this day and time.

 You run beside us, as we learn to breathe our praise of you

 Noticing again for the first time,

 That this world is full of your wonders.

 You stare trouble in the face!

 Turn us around so we might see life

 as revealed in the reflections of your grace around us.

Aging together, lives intertwined, your universe and our own lives,

 We offer songs of thanks,

 As with each step we take, we chant the pulse of your love—

 Breathing in and out,

 Moving back and forth,

 Aware of the heavens above and the earth below,

 Our lungsful of praises echo back to You--

 The listening Creator who is creating even now…..

Amen.

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