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Mistakes and Blessings

Wendy MacLean

When I make a mistake
the blessing is:
I have to take a direction
(use a colour, erase a line, take a moment)
I never would have chosen
Sometimes this is the only thing
that gives me permission
to try something new:
because I must
Otherwise
I have only a wasted canvas
a page of sad lost words
a day I despise
a sense of failure
I don't make mistakes on purpose
the blessing is:
they are unplanned
(a gift, a release, a shock)
I have to look in new ways
with humble eyes.
The paint, the pen, the hour
say:
Find us where we are
and love us
for being green, poem, midnight
Trust the process
we are being created
together
us in you, you in us
something new is arising
on the canvas
on the page
on the day
Space takes up time and paints
the words dance away the hours
we drink mint tea
and smile at our children
playing
"It is good," we say together.



About the author and painter: Wendy MacLean is a poet and minister living in Montreal and working with the United Church of Canada developing a portfolio of "Vision and Transformation". Before being ordained, she was a teacher in Chibougamau, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia. She has authored two volumes of poetry, *Spirit Song in Ancient Boughs* and *Rough Angel* (Borealis Press Ltd.).

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