

O Love that makes the starfields shine -
this small blue gem our home in space
has a new wrinkle in its time
and all is not well,
and well, all is not unwell either

across the gem-globe we are social distancing
and flattening curves as best we can
some risking their lives to save lives
while others resell wipes and sanitizer online
at no small profit
and don't even get me started on toilet paper...

I hear from
my friend who cannot visit her confused and forgetful husband in long-term care
and friend who got laid off
and friend who does not know what in the world she will do with the kids
and neighbor whose wife in health communications is not home much lately
so here: _____ ... add names from the long list in your heart

what a strange pause this is - - - -
the pandemic put us on hold
and we listen to the music while we wait

O Love that makes the starfields shine
as we hold on,
send harmony to heal this viral shock wave surreal season on our swirling gem blue-green

send stillness and courage,
strength to the healers,
peace to the afflicted,
sanity to social discourse,
renewal to the homes we shelter in

send grace to the margins where all manner of vulnerability resides
teach us how to span physical distance with true connection,
whatever strands of meaning we can muster

O Love that makes the starfields shine
shine within our acts of care
and calm these troubled hearts.

*Bob Tees, Palliative Care Outreach Team, Hamilton
With thanks to Bruce Cockburn for his starfields song
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