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## Abiding With Me

John Lackey

*Homegrown Press Studio*

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JOHN LACKEY

ABIDING WITH ME

We belted 'em together as we waited:  
I'll Fly Away. O Come Angel Band.  
Even the Doctor's — O Death.  
She promised to haunt,  
To warn of conniving women  
And approve the good uns.  
Wanted me to land softly and tenderly...  
And quickly.

Twenty-one months of Temodar,  
Then Avastin.  
The "lay me over for another year"  
As Ralph would sing it.

No hair to come undone when she was 61  
Though a very good year till winter closed,  
While long term memory still  
Ticked off answers to Wheel of Fortune ("I can solve it, Pat!")  
And Jeopardy ("Who are the Bee Gees?")  
Yet, with her chuckle, no note  
Of what we had just supped.

Valentine's Day with My Latest Sun is Sinking Fast,  
My triumph has begun.

The Long Black Veil, my anthem  
When my eight senior years  
Seemed to presage her long widowhood,  
Now mine to cry over bones  
When the night wind wails.

~ March 27, 2012