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# Prayer at Church

David C. Nielsen

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# *Prayer at Church*

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*david c. nielsen*

Close your eyes and don't peek—but I peeked.

I expected angels:  
smiling down,

slapping high fives,  
reeling in the words  
like rainbow trout.

Instead, it was like swimming underwater:  
I could stare where I wanted, make faces,  
wiggle my tongue.

The woman next to me  
whispered amens. I thought about  
kissing her,

laying a wet smack on her lips  
and watching her wake  
like snow white.

A girl my size swung her legs  
on the back row, looked around like this  
was a baseball game—

an easy afternoon,  
warm, breezy.  
I wanted her

to see me, to reach out  
across the deaf sea of people  
and mouth hello.