

Ode to a Future World of Health

--in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Northern Virginia Health Foundation, Arlington, VA

We won't wait, dear future, but keep marching
toward you, together, all the time calling
for care without challenge or constraint
for nurture that is neighborly and near.

Ode to you, our future world of health
for the sacredness of every body moving
toward you, with blood and breath and bone
and skin—with every heartbeat, that bears you
into being.

Ode to our collective future health, for the people
of every single place. Ode to partnership, to universal
care, to equity and justice, to community
commitment, to access that is shared. Ode
to our future: the stronger, healthier world
we are building every day.

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