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## Faithless

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# Faithless

– Gerald Ryan

Broken bells call,  
Clappers thud unsound  
Inside my pigeoned steeple.

Rusty gates beckon,  
Pained hinges groan  
With doors tilting and ajar.

I peer from tear-stained glasses,  
My zealous vision myopic  
Through broken windowpanes.

I dress in dusty sacristies,  
My vestments hang tattered  
Yellow on lonely altars.

I sing from croaking pipes,  
My hymn-breaths gasp weak  
From broken organ bellows.

Where mighty pillars stood,  
New winds chip and fracture  
As mortar dusts to dust.

Where soaring walls sheltered,  
Stains now leak and soften  
Mystic phrases into hieroglyph.

Where fertile rows of faithful grew,  
Candle dripped aisles now stand  
Barren, pews empty and awry.

Where we in loyal compact loved,  
Tabernacles echo open-door empty,  
Altars stand marble cold alone,

Where did you all go?