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Baptizing at Worthington Creek

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The winter was cold, and spring was late,
so they waited six weeks after the revival
until the creek had thawed
before baptizing those so newly saved.
Preacher Light would not wait longer.
“The Lord requires the spirit and the water;
nobody’s safe with one without the other.”
That was his way.

Despite the wait,
our breath hung in clouds
as we sang, “Baptize us again,
fill each heart with thy love,”
and watched while helpers
wrapped the shivering converts up in blankets
when they had climbed the creek bank.

The water, flowing free,
had washed them white as wool;
and we who watched them
knew their souls were safe.

—Louis Miles