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(un)faithful Humanity

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NORA PLUTH

(un)faithful humanity

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I. The Church

You belong here!
They said
 But not that part

A promise they did not mean
Because who are we if not liars?

This sanctuary is for everyone
The ones who know
The ones who don't
 Caught in the in between

You belong here!
They said
 But not that part

The part they say in omission
That maybe
 My Vocation isn't a husband
But marriage nonetheless

Forgive me Father for I have sinned
After I am clean
Pending penance
I run to the Father
Back to the altar
If You have given everything
How could I not give You this one thing?

 Or is it something You gave me?

Come as I am.
Just as I am.

II. The Community

You're accepted here!
They said
 But not that part.

That part that governs my heart
Informs my decisions

Thought I was ill informed
That I survived unscathed

 I lived it

I sought refuge with you
From the place I find refuge

I am accepted here
 But only if I fit the mold

And where I am promised community
I am met with emptiness
Jokes meant innocently
 found guilty in my heart

Who was I to think I'd find acceptance here?
 To think the flag actually meant progress.

My complaints are met with reminders
Like I don't know them oh so well

In *Animal Farm* I learned
We are all equal
 But some are more equal than others.

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III. the aftermath

the heart of it is simple
the issue is plain

more than the homophobia
that precedes every joke
that seeps into every
conversation
more than intolerance
more than expecting me to be the same
as every queer person you've ever met

maybe to escape the boxes they built

we built cages instead.

at the heart of it is humans.
too dependent on our own pleasure
we forget about everyone else's

too focused on our own comfort
we neglect the comfort of others

it's not blame i find
although it's tempting
in my selfish ways

and i'm not just peaceful
but not just mad

it's humanity.
your own

and mine.

it's not God
who told me i don't belong

it's not the promise of progress
that told me i'm not accepted

its humanity.