

# Fidelity

Jean Janzen

**I**n medieval paintings a dog  
at the feet of the master.  
Fidelity her name,  
her warmth curled beneath  
bride and groom, even the cross.

“Cat songs” my nephew names  
the ones we meow in worship  
for fresh-cream stroking.  
Egyptians thought them sacred,  
jeweled hands petting while  
slaves dragged rocks.

“No other gods,” Moses calls  
from the fire. “Heart, soul, mind,  
and your neighbor too,”  
barks the dog next door,  
guarding the borders, listening  
for the master’s step, her touch.

## About the poet

Jean Janzen lives and writes in Fresno, California. She has taught poetry writing at Fresno Pacific University and Eastern Mennonite University (Harrisonburg, Virginia).