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Repent

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GARY L. MCDOWELL

REPENT

because nature is a haunted house
because my kids are my religion

because who has time to make
ugly beautiful again, and who wants

to be known for what they didn't say
because why not, Fischl, my obsessions

aren't your obsessions, so because
even after all these years I still can't pray

with my eyes open because opening
my hands to grasp her pant leg

to stop her leaving because I don't lose

pennies between the seats of my car
because constellations indeed

because we had a picnic, joined the dance
among the leaves, ate sea salt

by the pinchful because we forgot
the tequila because given sunlight

let's plant the pyramids: all wit and no play
because deep in the mirror this morning

a face I recognized because