

Confessions in the key of kenosis

by [David Wright](#) in the [July 9, 2014](#) issue

—*after Philipians 4*

I am the one who has not  
rejoiced, always, and again  
I will say, is not rejoicing.

Hardly ever my gentleness  
is known, even to me, and not,  
certainly, to my children. Strangers  
report to have seen it on Tuesday  
in the library. I do not confirm  
this sighting.

But I have catalogued  
my every worry about everything,  
my requests made known in the sharp,  
carping voice on my blog. By supplication  
and prayer I claim to have been  
deserted. I say it again, deserted, justly.

And still, some Spirit  
stays near, alert for the stingiest rejoicing, key  
ready in his unclenched hand. Unlock, Heart-Guard,  
my chest's dark vessel. Empty me of treasured  
loss. And again, I say, make it emptier, until,  
for rejoicing, a space larger enough to echo appears.