Excerpted from "To Bless the Space Between Us" by John O'Donoghue in "10 poems to keep your spirits up during self-isolation." *Independent*. April 1, 2020

This is the time to be slow, Lie low to the wall Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let

The wire brush of doubt

Scape from your heart

All sense of yourself

And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,

Time will come good;

Again on fresh pastures of promise,

Where the air will be kind

And blushed with beginning.

Regie Routman and Gail Boushey, "Nurturing Writers with Equity in Mind", August 2020