

## Redbud Season

*Ann Hostetler*

Let labor cease while the redbuds bloom.  
Shhhh. Behind the screen of fuschia lace

winter trees are changing clothes.  
Come out! Leave everything behind—

redbuds bloom but once a year.  
Have you forgotten how to pray?

Eavesdrop on the bees that hover  
in apple blossoms, dandelion flowers

gathered on the green dance floor  
where cardinals hunt in purple shade.

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