

## **We Celebrate You**

*We never expected this  
Never thought we'd be kept away  
Never guessed for how long*

But we had you—  
to give our love to grandma  
cut father's hair  
wheel them to the window  
where we looked in, hands up to the glass

We had you—  
holding the phone  
giving presents and treats  
we could only send inside

We had you—  
wearing the gear  
taking the precautions  
that kept them safe

Take our thanks  
precious as the gems who are  
our parents, partners and friends.  
Replenish your strength.  
Rebuild your resilience.

We celebrate you  
like song after silence  
smiles after masks

—*Julie McNeill, 2021*