Murmuring Motif

The book of Joshua, a metaphor
For the things that bring us death,
The migration of butterflies
Conquering dark water
I have been afraid I have
Bathed in a tug-of-war with butterflies
Without forgiveness there is no future
I want to create death from this
Thing which holds me in place,
See the twilight see the butterfly
Before the dark water
I must not idolatize the past, worship
Its skin as continuous for there is
Always someone refusing to come
To terms with the darker half, refusing
To worship its wings while excavating behind the text.

Lizbeth Keiley

Lizbeth Keiley is an interfaith chaplain serving the needs of the hospice and health-care communities in Palm Beach County, Florida. She is also a published poet and writer, whose poems have appeared in the Denver Quarterly, the Pacific Review, Central Park, Fence, Verse, and other journals. A feature about her work in hospice chaplaincy is forthcoming in Sharing Magazine, the magazine for the healing ministry of the Order of St. Luke, the Physician.