ODE to 2020

You came in as a celebration
That’s the way each year should do
But humans didn’t bargain for
What happened to me and you

We had devastation of a rare kind
Losses that made us feel so blind
To every possible hope and dream
We cried for what was so extreme

The news was loaded with bad things
That a virus, loss, and hatred bring
Heightened awareness racism caused
Impacted all and gave us pause

What did we do with what we felt,
We heard, and what we saw
Asking for lives to matter
With marches, protests for all

Masks, social distance, and so many things
Couldn’t keep loved ones alive
Not being able to say good bye
Caused grieving with questions of why

Numbers became important throughout this unique year
Lower positivity rates gave reasons for us to cheer

Health care providers, scientists too
Worked round the clock to help undo
To give hope to others every day
This would be over as the year faded away

And then came December, the end of your time
For some not many reasons
To be thankful for the sublime

What’s left to remember from what you have done
Can we find any gifts from this year, even one?

When I count the time that I spent alone
Thinking about what I have known
What have I learned from humans far and near?
2020 taught me—be grateful you are still here.

~Verona~