Platitudes at Vesper

E. Patricia Maveety*
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"FATHER, I ask Thy peace for all mankind
   Tonight. I pray that they may share Thy love,
   Which comes to all who humbly look above
   And ask forgiveness. May they seek to bind
   Their lives to Christ, and in His presence find
   An understanding Comforter for grief;
   When in their deepest sorrow know relief
   In happiness for body, soul, and mind."

I say the words so often said before
By kneeling figures in this quiet, old,
Gray chapel. A slanting ray of sunlight brings
The Gothic window's pattern to the floor;
The noisy church-bells clang and crash. They hold
My prayer to earth. Outside a robin sings.

Sketch