Today’s short lyric by the late Maine poet David Walker greets the arrival of a newborn with both praise and wisdom.

A Prayer, A Welcome
by David Walker

Little wrinkle
from my flesh, eyelid
curling down at my fool’s
prattle; child
before whom I’m the more
child—your future
older than my past…
Forgive the father
I’ll be, become all
I can never know;
teach me to hold
you for a while, and then
to let go.