

Home to Alaska



A dry cough
An airplane ride to the town with the scanner
A pandemic that stops the world and his work up
A home in never-ending sunshine at the Arctic Circle
of Alaska

A simple procedure done thousands of miles away
A heart that stops while his lungs fill with fluid
A moment where it all goes dark
And it feels like wintertime at the Arctic Circle in Alaska

A constant hunger for air
An impossible task of leaving bed
A belief recovery will be swift and miraculous
A plan to return home to Alaska

A month in a hospital bed horribly ill
A medical system bursting at the seams
A plan to move to a nursing home down the street
And he is not returning to Alaska

A small improvement
A hallway walked
An outpatient appointment meant to celebrate
A scared doctor guiding him to an ICU bed far from Alaska

A constant hunger for air
A tube in the throat is the only cure
And yet the machines keep beeping
Alaska wants him home

A quiet night
A family prays
A final breath where the forever-dark becomes
forever-light
Alaska, he is home

—Dana Arenz, MD