



ozzie

**stay** (tribute to ozzie carey 1980-1999)

he can't move today  
last nights cold snap  
having seeped into his bones  
he lies on a towel placed  
on the kitchen floor for him  
stay

lighting the stove  
to warm our dinner  
his shaking body  
my soul  
i bend to pet him  
stay

instead I fall to the floor  
and the depths of my sorrow  
in tears I cradle his worn body  
and whisper  
not today  
stay

he is a shepherd  
it's what he does with our family  
shepherd us  
in and out of our days  
he guides us in our journey  
stay

holding us fast to our grounds  
and our lives  
returning us safely  
when we don't feel safe  
or can't return on our own  
stay

but now he wants to go  
and he would like  
a shepherd himself  
to lead him safely  
to the gate  
stay

i long to have the strength  
and courage  
he has shown us  
to help him out  
and on his way  
stay

but I don't  
and can only cradle his tired  
weak and pained body  
and whisper  
not today, please not today  
stay