Dear Earth, On the Occasion of Your 40th Earth Day Birthday

by Sharon Hurlbut

Everyone is tromping around
in work boots
like an army
of happy gardeners.
The park is smiling
from all this attention,
from the sound of kids
who think work is play.
It's not even sunny
but we don't mind.
I know you don't.
Grey days are just as good.
They've marked off
Mama Duck's little nesting place
and the handful of trilliums
so they won't get trampled
as we carry our loads
of fresh mulch.
We spread it around
as if laying a blanket
over our own child.
Afterward, we eat cupcakes
with sprinkles
and sing the birthday song
just for you, complete
with cha-cha-chas.
And Many More, we sing.

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And Many More.