

This is what it looks like to live forever

Based on "A singer in a church rally" by Burton Silverman



This is what it looks like to live forever.
Whether you're the mother or the singer-
half a century has passed
and we're still staring at the same scene.

grief explodes from her throat
with the sound of vibrato.

While the mother stands tall, and
fights to hold back her tears

While the mother lays over her
son's body and observes his last
gasp

she stops to catch her breath
and sustains a Db for 16 beats.

While the mother is dragged away,
her heart pounds silence in her
ears

and she stops to listen.

Frozen in time,
she stands,
modest in posture,
dressed in humbling clothes,
still singing songs of hope and joy.
Because no one has the courage to tell her
that she is surrounded by an empty white page.