

## **Resurrection of the Public Universal Friend**

Trans and non-binary were not labels you knew back then.  
However, you buried your birth name and threw away your gender  
Even though writers continue to unearth that deadname and insist the

Public Universal Friend is a woman or worse, a charlatan.  
Undermining dogma and norms  
Brought critics indeed, but you focused on  
Love and universal salvation, drawing all creeds and color to your flock.  
Iconoclast in the most accepting ways,  
Christ would have approved of your charity.

Universal Friends was the first religious community founded by an American yet  
No one brings it up, for women and non-binary folks are never  
Included in our history books.  
Venerating God over husband (yet allowing marriage to happen),  
Equality in the form of abolition and peaceful sharing of land, and  
Repentance—you did preach.  
Salvation could come for us all in the upcoming  
Apocalypse if we followed you. Your detractors said those were  
Lies, but they were the ones who threw the rocks.

Frocked in masculine garb yet hair long like a lady's,  
Resurrected during a political revolution,  
Inspiring a couple other women to discard their gender,  
Escaping a mob on horseback, you were the  
Necessary glue that held your Friends together, and the movement  
Died when you didn't rise, but here I resurrect your spirit.