touch is almost too slow a sense for trees

a cloud passed faster than the shadow it cast¹
a fabulous shade thrown on the ground beneath our feet extraordinary ordinary, yet
I see a black squirrel and think of a friend a pen clicks and prepares to leave glitter tapping on sun the uncanny rhythm of hammers on nails

grief is the best we can hope for a life split evenly filled more or less by equal parts of love and loss leftover overflowd firefly elegies being known being found not needing our edge to see be seen saying yes to fortitude with no need to be fully understood may we they be those whose meaning

James Merrill, The Changing Light at Sandover (2011)

as constellations come in the gaps