...Abraham took the wood for the holocaust
and laid it on his son Isaac's shoulders,
while he himself carried the fire and the knife...

— Genesis 22:6

Fifteen behind a horse-pulled plow
and proud of furrows sure and deep
dirt fragrant as any Christmas dinner

His father decides (by what prompting)
today
now

To the kitchen
clear the table
remove clothing
onto the table and on his back
shaving razor rinsed
peel the slip of ragged skin
(the father has performed
more exacting surgeries
on deer and 'coon some seasons
or the time a fishhook flew
from a flung line
into the center of the dog's right eye)
little blood
spit and spread tobacco juice
around the corona
with thumb and fore and middle fingers

Pain-dazed the boy sits
raises his arms through the sleeves
of a clean dress
does not know to button it
the father does

A slow walk together back to the field
back to the plowing

Rusty C. Moe