

Virus Vigil

**Poetry by Jim Blackburn
Art by Isabelle Scurry Chapman**



Earth

The Earth is my church – my place – my way,
My anchor that cannot be taken away,
It is mine by right of inheritance,
But it must be protected from happenstance.

Buckminster Fuller said my Earth is a spaceship,
We must keep it going for we're on a long trip,
That is our role, our purpose, our place,
To ensure the Earth remains first rate.

Earth-keeping is a calling of some religions,
That puts us in line for some major collisions
Between those who would destroy in the name of economy,
And those who would protect in the name of ecology.

But that conflict is false I am here to proclaim
For economy and ecology should be one and the same,
But we must rethink, reload, and realign,
And money can ensure that business gets the sign.

So, let's have a roll call of Earth Church devotees,
And see who is willing to change their ways,
To spend their money aligned with their thinking,
To send a message without blinking.

It will require good thinking and force of will,
For we have a duty that we must fulfill,
Thinking must change from a century ago,
It's gonna be hard, but old ways have to go.

For the Earth is our voyager, our spacecraft, our home,
And we can't make this trip by ourselves, alone,
We must bring the whole of the Earth along,
As we live as we think, in practice and in psalm.

So sail on along, my ship called Earth,
Keep me sane traversing the universe,
I'll fight to protect your land, water and air,
So they're safe for all travelers, no need to despair.

So welcome to Earth Church,
Pull yourself up a pew,
Where we fight for the spaceship
To keep it working for you.