



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

This woodpecker comes with a yellow belly,
It releases the sap that seems like jelly
That flows from the holes made in a row,
But this natural sap flows oh so slow.

But this bird's name has been taken in vain,
To be called it is an insult intended to shame,
For a yellow belly implies cowardice,
And not the illness yellow jaundice.

Now why has this bird been singled out?
Does it have some flaw within or without?
Perhaps sipping sap is not the hero's path,
Must our heroes rip meat and act the wrath?

I remember Vietnam when we were called yellow
For not wanting to shoot some Viet Cong fellow,
To paraphrase the words of Muhammed Ali,
What did the Viet Cong ever do to me?

We must refuse what authority says to do
When fascists attack because of the faith you choose,
Or when our Earth Church is being ripped apart,
We must live with principle, we must live with heart.

Am I yellow because I don't choose to kill?
Or refuse to support the Chiltipin steel mill?
Or for standing and saying that black lives matter?
Or for turning off all the of the negative chatter?

It seems to me that this bird has been bullied,

This bird's fine feathers have also been sullied,
It's a blow too low, it's an outright slight,
I tell you it's wrong, it's just not right

So here at Earth Church it is with delight,
That we introduce our yellow-bellied acolyte,
Our symbol against all forms of oppression,
A colorful example of the power of expression.

So welcome to Earth Church
Pull yourself up a pew
Say a prayer that the yellow belly
Wraps its wings around you.