Virus Vigil

Poetry by Jim Blackburn
Art by Isabelle Scurry Chapman
Green Angel

There’s a green angel looking over me,
She’s Mother Earth with her sorcery,
She performs green magic year after year
She’s important to me – I hold her dear.

The angel Earth gave birth to us all,
To forget that fact takes a lot of gall,
We would not be here but for our mother,
I’d have no sister and you no brother.

When I was in a dark and lonely place,
Mother Earth came and spoke to my face,
Saying her church was open if I’d come,
If I were open, I might not be so glum.

So, I went with my angel to Galveston Bay,
And listened to what the gulls had to say,
They fished with the tide and rested when slack,
They said stick around - they’d have my back.

And then the blue heron stopped by for a visit,
She asked if I would give her just a minute
In which to explain how she loved being alive,
About how humility had helped her survive.

And then the brown pelican swept in for a consult,
He said grow tough hide to defray the insult
That comes when you take on those with power,
But out of such encounters comes our finest hour.

And so, Galveston Bay and the Green Angel were one,
My higher power established, a hard deed done,
I had left behind much religious training,
For the person I am, it was not sustaining.

But the green angel and Earth Church are solid gold,
I’ll be attending services – it’ll never get old,
My spiritual self has wings – I can fly,
With my lovely green angel until I die.

So welcome to Earth Church,
It’s so good to see you,
Come fly with the green angel
Right out of your pew.