



Sisters and Brothers,

bend an ear
to the singing of angels.

Not that of seasonal
carolers who pause
at lace-curtained windows:
offering familiar and favorite
tunes in delicious harmony
and frosted breath;
providing splendid distraction
from the agonized arias of the innocent.

But of angels, who,
in the midst of
Caesar's endless census,

erupt from darkest eclipse
with unnerving news—
startling—
interrupting
private patterns and sanctioned order
with the disruptive announcement
of a New Order: COMING SOON
TO A NEIGHBORHOOD
NEAR YOU!—
unsettling keepers of every flock
with the overture
of swaddling-wrapped revolt:
Behold the light
for those who dwell
in the shadow of death!

Those for whom
this “world” is “home”
will take offense
at the herald announcing
this manger marquee.
As with the shepherds,
they will “wonder” at your tale.

But fear not, for
these are glad tidings.
Blend your voices
with the heavenly chorus,
singing glory, and peace,
to God, and for the earth.

Sisters and Brothers,
Rejoice! For
unto us a child

—This reflection was written by Ken Sehested, a minister and organizer for peace who lives in North Carolina. The art was created by Baylor University art student Erin Kennedy.