

**Is the Christmas Star still shining?**  
Or is it mourning  
over the little town of Bethlehem?

**In Bethlehem today** people are fenced in  
behind a concrete wall  
that cuts across fields and olive groves,  
separating people from schools,  
hospitals and work places.

**In Bethlehem today** Mary must give birth  
at a military checkpoint,  
shepherds cannot reach the stable,  
the three Wise Men, gifts in hands,  
stand helpless before the wall.

**In Bethlehem today** the star has vanished  
where angels sang  
hilltops are scarred by  
illegal houses

Yet while we search  
the darkness in vain  
The angels' message is still  
Peace on Earth

So let us listen  
Let us stand up and act.

**Peace and Justice for Palestine**

*Ulrike Vestring 2009*

**Is the Christmas Star still shining?**

