

### Third Sunday of Advent

"Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as the sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way."

People Look East, vs. 3 by Eleanor Farjeon

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him John 1:6-7.*

As I write this from Jerusalem, the situation here certainly looks dim. Daily violence, shooting, tear gas, land confiscation, fighting over the Al Aqsa Mosque...where is this going to end? As I talk to people, I hear very little hope that the violence will stop, that peace will ever come. And yet as Christians, how can we ever say that there is no hope? The scripture for today from John 1:8 talks about bearing witness to the light. We all know that the light shines most brightly when things are their darkest. "One more light the bowl shall brim" says the hymn. I believe that each one of us who works for justice adds our light to this darkness. But more than that, I believe that "the one who calls is faithful" (I Thess. 5:24), that hope is not an empty dream but a promise that is on the way to being fulfilled.

*As we light the candle, Lord, we give you thanks for your faithfulness. Even in the darkness when the light is dim, help us to see your light of hope. Amen*

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