



Advent Reflection for Tuesday, December 14

Kristin Popham

You can listen to the reading and reflection by clicking [here](#).

1 John 1:4-7

We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Upon my first reading, what struck me most about this passage was the use of darkness and light. It's common imagery, phrases that I've heard many times before, but, maybe because I'm writing this while it's literally dark outside and while the world around me can most accurately be described as dark, the words "darkness" and "light" really wormed their way into my brain.

The other word that called out to me here is "fellowship". The first part of the passage talks about God as light without any darkness, and anyone claiming fellowship with him while having darkness in themselves is lying. Reading that, I had a knee jerk reaction of "Hey! That's not fair! I'm trying!". But the passage continues with: "but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin"--and it hit me--the trying is the point. I'm going to fail at emulating Christ, everyone is, it's essential human nature. But I'm going to keep working at it, and I've been given this wonderful gift--the fellowship of everyone else who is trying, failing, and trying again too. That fellowship is so many things; community, support, forgiveness--all united by the understanding that it's alright that we're failing because God still loves us. He loves us so immensely that he sent Jesus to die in order to cleanse us all from our sins, our failures.

Kristin Popham lives in Kensington with her husband Mark and two small daughters. She has been attending Holy Apostles since 2019.

