We left behind a hurricane
Intense rain wind and pain
After a long sleepless flight
We open our eyes
to the sweet light
In Jerusalem

Our ears hear
The dove’s soft song
Sung in Jerusalem
We walk outside
Up on the rooftop
To greet the morning sun
In Jerusalem

In the distance a rooster crows
While cats in their eternal chase
Pursue the illusive dove
In Jerusalem

Bell Towers, Minarets, and Domes
All reach up to the sky
Seemingly seeking love
From above
In Jerusalem

We gather together for
Shabbat dinner
Up on the rooftop
In Jerusalem

We wait for three stars
To appear in the night sky
Up in the rooftop
In Jerusalem

We sing
We pray
We share wine
We break bread
We share happiness
Up on the rooftop
In Jerusalem

We are all nourished
And our spirit like fire
Grows bright
As we on this
Shabbat night
Let our souls sing
In Jerusalem

For a moment
Time stands still
And we seem
To touch God’s soul
And we are happy
In Jerusalem

In this land
Few forgive
And no one forgets
Memory resists sleep
Inside the shadow of silence
The olive trees weep
In Jerusalem

In this Holy Land of miracles
We all wait for tomorrow
And tomorrow
Never comes
Today
Only the past arrives
In Jerusalem

We placed our prayers
Inside the sacred crevices
Of the Western Wall
And asked God to hear our call
In Jerusalem

We walked the Judean Desert
Where Jesus wandered for forty days
And forty nights
And we came across our own Oasis
Resting and refreshing ourselves
In the mystery of running waters

From a distance
We see Qumran cave
Where sacred secrets slept for centuries
While we float on the Dead Sea
And revive our energy

We softly entered a Holy Space
Inside the Mosque of Abraham’s Tomb
Koranic calligraphy and geometric beauty
We walk outside
And feel the deep wound

We return to the gentle rock-strewn hills
Surrounding Jerusalem
We enter its ancient Jaffa Gate
And are greeted by the sweet evening breeze
Pilgrims all
Are we
In Jerusalem

Everyone is in love
With this land
Of One God
Everyone wants a
Piece of this land
In Jerusalem

God refuses to be divided
And waits upon the people
To learn they too
Are one
In Jerusalem

Then and only then
Shall we know Peace
In Jerusalem.

— Manuel N. Gómez
Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs