



LENTEN DEVOTIONAL MARCH 13, 2022

SCRIPTURE

PSALM 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

4 He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

6 The sun shall not strike you by day

nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

8 The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

DEVOTIONAL

The Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell, Director of the World Mission Initiative

During the 1980s and 90s, Peru's Andes Mountains reverberated with acts of violence on an order of cruelty rarely experienced in modern history. Shining Path Liberation Army fighters killed and dismembered farmers, teachers, and children, leaving whole communities traumatized and families frozen in grief. Tragically, the Peruvian Army responded in kind, inflicting gross violations of human rights, especially among indigenous communities. "For 12 long years, we went to bed each night not knowing if the violence was coming for us," said Presbyterian elder and my research colleague Olmedo Huamaní of the indigenous community of Santa Barbara, Huancavelica.

In the face of such profound moral injury, I found what the social psychologists expected: the erosion of interpersonal trust, intimate relationships, and the capacity to plan for tomorrow. What surprised me, though, was the deep resilience I found among so many of the region's Christians. The biblical narrative of an all-powerful God who abides among God's people, knows them by name, and will not stop loving them—*despite* their experience—was celebrated and shared in every prayer meeting, worship service, and family devotional time I attended in Huancavelica. By evoking God's watchcare, people were enabled to hold on to each other.

It won't surprise you, then, that the most popular hymn by far among Christians in the region is Psalm 121. The Psalm's laser-like focus on God's protection helps me in my perceived self-sufficiency to "right-size" my sense of importance—and remember in whose gracious hands I live.

PRAYER

Gracious God, you are our rock and our shield. Remind us of life's fragility and of our need to hold on to each other even as we look to you for protection and nurture. In the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

ABOUT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Rooted in the Reformed tradition, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is committed to the formation of students for theologically reflective ministry and to scholarship in service to the global Church of Jesus Christ.

BECOME A HYBRID STUDENT

Master's

Doctor of Ministry

Certificates

Non-Degree

PTS NEIGHBORHOOD COLLABORATIVE RESOURCE PROGRAMS

Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry

Continuing Education

Faith Forming Families Network

Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology

Miller Summer Youth Institute

Metro-Urban Institute

World Mission Initiative

FACULTY

In addition to their on-campus duties, our faculty are experts in their fields and are available to preach and teach. Learn more about their **topics of research and writing** and invite them to present at your congregation or gathering.

EVENTS

The Seminary hosts a wide range of events—many of them free!—on topics of faith including church planting, mission, vocation, spiritual formation, pastoral care and counseling, archaeology, and many more. Visit our **calendar** often for a listing of upcoming events.

VISIT PTS

Interested in the Seminary? **Come visit us!**

STAY IN TOUCH WITH PTS

Sign-up to receive the Seminary's newsletters: Seminary News (monthly), Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry, Continuing Education, Faith Forming Families Network, Kelso Museum, Metro-Urban Institute, Miller Summer Youth Institute, and World Mission Initiative. Alums, there's also one for you!

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
616 North Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Phone: 412-362-5610



FIND YOUR PROGRAM

REQUEST INFO

APPLY ONLINE

VISIT THE CAMPUS

News & Events**Contact****Directions****Employment** **Save Page As PDF**

Privacy Policy

COVID-19

Accessibility

Anti-Discrimination

Title IX And Anti-Harassment