



## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL DECEMBER 1, 2022

### SCRIPTURE

#### PSALM 147:12-20

- 12 Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!
- 13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates;  
he blesses your children within you.
- 14 He grants peace within your borders;  
he fills you with the finest of wheat.
- 15 He sends out his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.
- 16 He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters frost like ashes.
- 17 He hurls down hail like crumbs —  
who can stand before his cold?

18 He sends out his word, and melts them;  
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.  
19 He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.  
20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know his ordinances.  
Praise the Lord!

## DEVOTIONAL

The Rev. James Golla '16, DMin student

How does one rejoice as the cold of winter is upon us? As the weather gets colder and the nights longer, one can find themselves with a case of the winter blues. The effect of the snow and the frost can become overwhelming. The psalmist reminds us that the sovereign God is the one who has control over the elements; like snow, frost, and hail. In response to the chilling angst that has overcome us, God sends God's word as the wind blows. Wind, in Hebrew, carries the connotation of not only the power, but the presence of God. The wind carries God's word throughout the world.

As we approach Christmas, we have the image of God's Word (John 1) wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger (Luke 2). The wind, or rather the presence of God, is made known through God's Word—Jesus Christ the Son. The presence of God is made known in the midst of our cold and blue winter days. A presence that is melting away at the anxiety and fear that we carry. A presence that is melting away at the injustices and oppression in our world. A presence that can help us rejoice, because God is truly with us.

## PRAYER

Sovereign God, as seasons of our lives change your Word remains constant. As we look toward the birth of Jesus, let our cold hearts be melted by the warmth of your love. Help us to encounter your presence and love in one another. Praise the Lord! Amen.

## ABOUT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

## BECOME A STUDENT

[Master's](#)

[Doctor of Ministry](#)

[Non-Degree](#)

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

[Graduate Certificate in Adaptive and Innovative Ministry](#)

[Graduate Certificate in Ministry](#)

[Graduate Certificate in Missional Leadership](#)

[Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies](#)

[Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry](#)

[Spiritual Formation Certificate](#)

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

[Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry](#)

[Continuing Education](#)

[Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology](#)

**Miller Summer Youth Institute**

**Metro-Urban Institute**

**World Mission Initiative**

**Zeitah Excavations**

## 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 (monthly), Continuing Education (monthly), World Mission Initiative (monthly), Metro-Urban Institute (quarterly), and Kelso Museum. 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**