

December 20

This year's advent devotionals feature readings from publications by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary faculty members. Today's reading comes from the book *The Lord's Prayer for Today* written by William J. Carl III, President and Professor of Homiletics at PTS. The book is published by Westminster John Knox Press and is available through Cokesbury.com.

The reading begins on page 28:

Praying "Thy Kingdom come" means asking God to show us where and how it's coming. The reason we need God's help is that we can't find it on our own – it all depends on the lens you have on when you go looking for it. Too often we look for it among the shadows of passing traffic and the latest news on CNN. But those fancies are not the true Reality. We won't find it in reckless acquisition or in fame or fortune. As long as we look for it among our worldly delights, we will never find it. Jesus is not calling for some sort of Gnostic retreat from the world, but asking us to put on new "kingdom" lenses that will allow us to see what is right there in front of us, God moving and transforming all creation.

Prayer

Holy God, the Chinese Christians pray "Revive your church, beginning with me." So we pray that your kingdom comes, with us as active participants in our own lives and in the world. We turn our lives and our futures over to you once again, believing in this season of advent that you will come. Alleluia. Amen.