

December 21

This year's advent devotionals feature readings from publications by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary faculty members. Today's reading comes from the book *Reconstructing Pastoral Theology: A Christological Foundation*, written by Professor Andrew Purves, Professor of Reformed Theology. It is published by Westminster John Knox Press and is available through Cokesbury.com.

The reading begins on page 33:

God's grace is the key signature of the gospel, the message of the coming of God in the flesh into the world specifically in and as Jesus for a saving purpose. Grace means Jesus; grace is Jesus. He is *Emmanuel*, for he is God with us. But more, he is also "*Yeshua*, meaning *Yahweh-Saviour*, for "he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt 1:21). Thus the incarnation directly implies the atonement, and there is no atonement without the incarnation; otherwise God has not come among and dealt with us, and done so precisely in and as this man. Thus Jesus is worshiped as *Jesous Kyrios*, Jesus Lord. Grace has no Christian meaning apart from this confession.

Prayer

O Come, O Come Emmanuel! You are our grace and our salvation. Because you have entered into our lives and have become one with us, we find our hope. We worship and adore you, Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen. .