

December 22

This year's advent devotionals will feature readings from publications by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary faculty members. Today's reading comes from *Searching for Home: Spirituality for Restless Souls* written by Craig Barnes, Robert Meinelly Professor of Leadership and Ministry and Pastor of Shadyside Presbyterian Church. It is published by Brazos Press. To order the book visit [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com).

The reading begins on page 128:

After defeating death, the risen Savior can appear on any road we are walking, and he often will appear in the places we least expect him – like the road to Emmaus, or the road to Damascus, or the road to work. Every time he appears it is to remind you that you are not alone on that road. Seeing that, you are transformed from a confused nomad into a visionary pilgrim because it is the presence of Christ that gives meaning, purpose, and even delight to the journey. In the words of Oswald Chambers, “It is this intense reality of expecting Christ at every turn that gives life the attitude of childlike wonder that he wants us to have.”

Why do children enjoy their choices more than adults? Because their world is still filled with wonder. Ugly ducklings can turn into swans. A frog can become a prince. You don't know, you'll have to kiss it to find out. If their wonder ever turns to confusion, fear, or hurt, they have only to climb up into a lap to be loved until the hurt is gone. That is what prayer offers – time in the lap with Abba Father where confusion and hurt is loved away and the wonder of life restored.

The pilgrim's calling is not to get to the right place. That's the calling of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Pilgrims are called to look for and witness the wondrous things that Jesus is doing on the road we are traveling today.

Prayer

O God of Wonder and Grace, open our eyes that we might see Jesus wherever we travel on life's journey. Help us to live as expectant people, watching and waiting for you in our midst. Through Christ we pray, Amen.