

December 5

This year's Advent devotionals will feature readings from publications by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary faculty members. Today's reading comes from an article written by Martha Robbins, Joan Marshall Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Director of *Pneuma*. The article, *A Meditation on Matthew 2:1-12*, is available on the [Seminary's website](#).

So often we think of having a Christian faith as having a set of beliefs or truths given to us by Scripture which guide our lives as Christians. We forget that faith is also a journey encompassing moments of rupture, transition, insight or revelation, and repatterning. The inbreaking of God in our lives through events and persons, as well as in worship, sometimes dislodges us from our familiar ways of seeing things and our habitual ways of responding to others and to God. Such events may be occasioned by a joyful or painful disruption of the ways our lives have been organized, such as a birth of a child, or a separation from loved ones through divorce, death, or geographic relocation (events which disrupt our daily routines, our economic responsibilities, our way of organizing our futures). There is yet another way in which our lives may be disrupted. We may one day glimpse a star on the horizon and have a moment of truth when the deep inner stirrings of our beings are moved by a glimmer of the "more" of what we can be. The promise of God forever calls us to "more being." Often these insights, intuitions, rumblings, awakened in us by the Holy Spirit, mediated through certain events (personal, social or historical), come when we least expect them. They may even come when it feels downright inconvenient to us.

Prayer

Holy God, in this Advent season, we pray that we would be open to your interruption in our lives. Awaken us with your Holy Spirit. Surprise us with your presence. Wake us up to the new life and new opportunities that you place in our paths – sometimes found in joy and sometimes found in challenge. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.