

December 8

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.

The reading is found on page 140

The Gospel according to John portrays a God who could no longer stand to see us living with so much darkness. Especially the darkness of our own making. God knows, the only thing that could restore us to life was a word as powerful as the words he spoke at creation. We needed a word that could help us be unafraid of the dark, a word about love and forgiveness that could bring us home. But a word like that cannot just be spoken. We've already heard too many other words by now that were hollow. People who promised to love us but they weren't there when we needed them most. We've heard words about a promising job, a promising lab report, a promising move to a new city. But in each case it turned out to be just words. Soon the darkness was back. If we were going to believe God's word, this time it had to become flesh and live among us. And so, as John tells us, God revealed the Word in himself --- named Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Eternal source of hope and light, we await patiently your fuller revelation in our lives. We need your love today to shine in the dark corners of our lives. Reveal yourself to us again in these advent days, that we may more perfectly love you and reflect your love on earth. Amen.