

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Written by the Rev. Liddy Barlow, executive minister of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, and brought to you by the Continuing Education Office at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

### **Scripture**

Psalm 127:1

1 “The Lord is my light and salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

### **Devotional**

In the dystopian novel *Divergent* by Veronica Roth, young people must enter a “fear landscape” as part of an initiation ritual. With group leaders monitoring their brain activity, they must endure a simulation of each one of their fears, one after another.

If I had to enter a fear landscape, I might never come out: my list of fears goes on and on. Snakes and spiders, house fire and plane crashes, failure and pain. Every time I turn on the news, I hear new reasons to be afraid.

But the Psalmist reminds us that the bright salvific light of God, like a flashlight to a spooky corner, sends each one of these fears packing. What indeed shall we fear, when we know Christ is with us? Five hundred years ago, a monk scratched these wise words into the wall of a Scottish abbey: “The wise fear nothing but God.”

### **Prayer**

God my light and salvation, assure me of your presence and free me from my fear, so that I may trust in you with my whole heart, and in that trust find joy and peace. Amen.