

LENT DEVOTIONAL

[LENT PROGRAM](#)[APPLY ONLINE](#)[VISIT CAMPUS](#)[REQUEST INFO](#)

LENT DEVOTIONAL APRIL 14, 2025

SCRIPTURE

PSALM 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4 He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
- 6 The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
8 The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

DEVOTION

The Rev. Tom Harrison '24

In January 2023, my wife, Cherie, and I found ourselves in Bethlehem for 10 days, thanks to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's World Mission Initiative.

We stood atop the Mount of Olives, gazing east from the Ha-Masu'ot Lookout across the Judean wilderness, where two days earlier we had eaten lunch in the home of Bedouin shepherds. Beyond the desert, we could make out the northern tip of the Dead Sea, where a day earlier we'd bobbed about like corks on wind-driven waves. Before that, we helped prepare the dinner we shared with residents of a Palestinian refugee camp.

I thought of all the history and drama that had unfolded on these hills—how Jesus fasted and met the devil in the wilderness before us, how he'd descended the slope behind us, riding a donkey. I thought of his crucifixion, burial, and resurrection—and of the endless antagonism that has played out ever since on that lower hill behind us, the Temple Mount.

What does it mean? How will it end? And to what purpose? God could easily get along without the bother of humanity. God doesn't need us.

But God does love us.

I remember a quote by Elie Wiesel, a Nazi concentration camp survivor and Nobel laureate. In the forward to his novel *The Gates of the Forest*, Wiesel wrote: "God made man because he loves stories."

God doesn't need our prayers or praises but does desire them. God doesn't need our help but desires partnership. God is not impressed with our attempts at righteousness but loves our confession. God's pure love compels and inspires us to strive for righteousness that we can't achieve. And when we confess our faults and failures, God gladly forgives and exhorts us to keep trying.

That's the makings of a great story. That's God's story. We are God's story.

PRAYER

Divine Maker of heaven and earth, you watch tirelessly over your holy city. You shield us by day and stand guard by night. You direct our footsteps along the hills and highways of your creation, even as your son, our Messiah, walked this earth and showed us the way. Continue to lead and protect us as we humbly walk with your son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

ABOUT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Rooted in the Reformed tradition, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is committed to the formation of students for theologically reflective ministry and to scholarship in service to the global Church of Jesus Christ.

BECOME A HYBRID STUDENT

Master's

Doctor of Ministry

Certificates

Non-Degree

PTS NEIGHBORHOOD COLLABORATIVE RESOURCE PROGRAMS

Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry

Continuing Education

[Faith Forming Families Network](#)

[Kelso Museum of Near Eastern Archaeology](#)

[Miller Summer Youth Institute](#)

[Metro-Urban Institute](#)

[World Mission Initiative](#)

FACULTY

In addition to their on-campus duties, our faculty are experts in their fields and are available to preach and teach. Learn more about their [topics of research and writing](#) and invite them to present at your congregation or gathering.

EVENTS

The Seminary hosts a wide range of events—many of them free!—on topics of faith including church planting, mission, vocation, spiritual formation, pastoral care and counseling, archaeology, and many more. Visit our [calendar](#) often for a listing of upcoming events.

VISIT PTS

Interested in the Seminary? [Come visit us!](#)

STAY IN TOUCH WITH PTS

Sign-up to receive the Seminary's newsletters: Seminary News (monthly), Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry, Continuing Education, Faith Forming Families Network, Kelso Museum, Metro-Urban Institute, Miller Summer Youth Institute, and World Mission Initiative. Alums, there's also one for you!

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
616 North Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Phone: 412-362-5610



[FIND YOUR PROGRAM](#)

[REQUEST INFO](#)

[APPLY ONLINE](#)

[VISIT THE CAMPUS](#)

[News & Events](#)[Contact](#)[Directions](#)[Employment](#) [Save Page As PDF](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[COVID-19](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Anti-Discrimination](#)

[Title IX And Anti-Harassment](#)