

# LENT DEVOTIONAL



APPLY  
ONLINE NOW

REQUEST  
INFO

VISIT  
CAMPUS

## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL MARCH 7, 2022

### 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 for evermore.

## DEVOTIONAL

Dr. Helen Blier, Director of Continuing Education

In his book *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes*, Belden Lane wonders what it is that has drawn mystics and seekers alike to mountains and deserts. What is it about times of crisis that pull us to these stark and uncompromising places? After all, Lane says, mountains and deserts are indifferent to us. They exist whether we are there or not and, quite frankly, have no need of us. As such, he says, there's something about the sheer power and otherness of these landscapes that strips away all that is extraneous in our hearts and minds and forces us to come face to face with what is most essential.

I know something of this. A few years ago, grief hit me hard—and after enough months of trying to put one foot in front of the other, I knew I needed to do whatever it took to visit a friend in Denver so that we could hike the Rockies. As we made our way to the city from the airport, I lifted my eyes to the Front Range, pink and yellow with the mid-morning sun. Look at us, the mountains said, Look up. *Look up from your troubles and grief, up from the immediacy of what seems all-consuming.* Lift your eyes, says the psalmist—that's where your help will come from. And then it hit me: it wasn't about the hiking or even the mountains (although they are my happiest of places). It was about the looking up—and the letting go required to do it. "God can only be met in emptiness," writes Lane, "by those who come in love, abandoning all effort to control, every need to astound."

You see, the psalm isn't about the hills, or even the fact that we need help. That's only the first two lines. It's about God—God who made heaven and earth, God who is sturdy enough to hold us steady and watch over our comings and goings. The God who is greater than our troubles and deeper than our grief. These fierce landscapes reorient us—away from distractions and toward the holy one, up from the overwhelm of what troubles us and out to a broader horizon—and in doing so, they reorient us to the stories of our lives. And isn't that the task of Lent, to reorient us, to remind us to lift our eyes?

## PRAYER

God, remind me in this season of Lent to lift my eyes—to look beyond the troubles and know that you are there to guide my step and hold me close. And when lifting my eyes seems too hard, cup my chin gently and raise my face to yours, from this time on and forevermore. Amen.

## ABOUT PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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

## BECOME A STUDENT

[Master's](#)

[Doctor of Ministry](#)

[Non-Degree](#)

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

[Graduate Certificate in Adaptive and Innovative Ministry](#)

[Graduate Certificate in Ministry](#)

[Graduate Certificate in Missional Leadership](#)

[Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies](#)

[Graduate Certificate in Urban Ministry](#)

[Spiritual Formation Certificate](#)

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

[Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry](#)

[Continuing Education](#)

[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 (monthly), Continuing Education (monthly), World Mission Initiative (monthly), Metro-Urban Institute (quarterly), and Kelso Museum. 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](#)