

THE THIRD FRIDAY OF ADVENT

Hearts on Pilgrimage

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.*

Psalms 84:5

What images come to mind when you think of the word pilgrim? Images of stern 17th-century Puritans or a person on an epic journey to a religious shrine?

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The idea of being a pilgrim can feel like it is reserved for heroes only and not for ordinary people.

But as we continue to travel through Advent, it is worth noting that many of the key characters in Scripture were ordinary people who were pilgrims before there were pilgrims.

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Abram was an old man living with his infertile wife in his family's tribe, tending livestock, when God called him. Abram had said "yes" to the one true God long before he'd taken a single step into the unknown. Hebrews 11:8 notes, "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."



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Abram's response to God began a journey that would lead all of us who respond in faith to God to journey to Bethlehem-then to Calvary, then into the world in which we live now.

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**Gracious Savior, help me to
respond in faith to you. Show me
how to wander with purpose.
Teach me how to live as a pilgrim.
Amen**

***FOR FURTHER REFLECTION READ
GENESIS 12:1-8***