

Advent Devotional - Day 20

2025

December 20th

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-14 Verse: *"When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.' So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt"*



Reflection:

Joseph wakes in the night, gathers his family, and leaves without fanfare. That quiet, urgent movement reminds us that protection often looks like small, steady action: a neighbor driving someone to safety, a family taking in a frightened relative, or a volunteer answering a late-night call for help.

In Penn Hills people move for safety all the time—fleeing violence, addiction, or losing a job. The church's role is simple and practical: offer sheltering hands, warm beds or blankets, information, and steady companionship without judgment so people can breathe and take the next step.

Joseph trusted God in the dark and acted at once. Mt. Hope can follow that example by training people to respond quickly, keeping a list of local resources, and remembering that faithful work sometimes means getting up in the night to help someone find safety. Mt. Hope can and should always be a safe place in the dark and a faithful companion on the road for those in need.

Prayer:

God, give us hearts that move without hesitation. Open our eyes to the vulnerable at our door, grant us courage to speak for those without voice, and fill our hands with practical care. Teach us to shelter, advocate, and walk beside refugees, immigrants, and anyone forced to flee, so that protecting life becomes for us the work of the gospel. Amen.

Today's Mt Hope Mindful Response Challenge:

Be prepared to act. Keep a small emergency kit in your car or home and a list of local resources you can share with those in need. Buy a few gift cards for places like Target or McDonalds to put in your wallet or purse, so you are ready to give when God calls you.



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