

My Refuge is in God

Since our daughter's unexpected seizure and then learning it was caused by an aggressive brain cancer, I have been in search of refuge from a difficult prognosis.

I found using the Christ Prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on us," and Tibetan mantra "Om Mani Peme Hum" a way to drive off the worries that have made sleep so challenging.

Frequent paddling in a kayak or canoe on the Eel River is somewhere I can feel the embrace of the beauty of God's creation and find comfort.

Experiencing the compassion of so many that provide care in medical settings has gone far in connecting us to tender support from folks beyond our usual paths.

But the outpouring of love that we have received and share with family members, friends both near and far, and our faith community has been an amazing and unexpected source of strength and hope on this journey in search of healing.

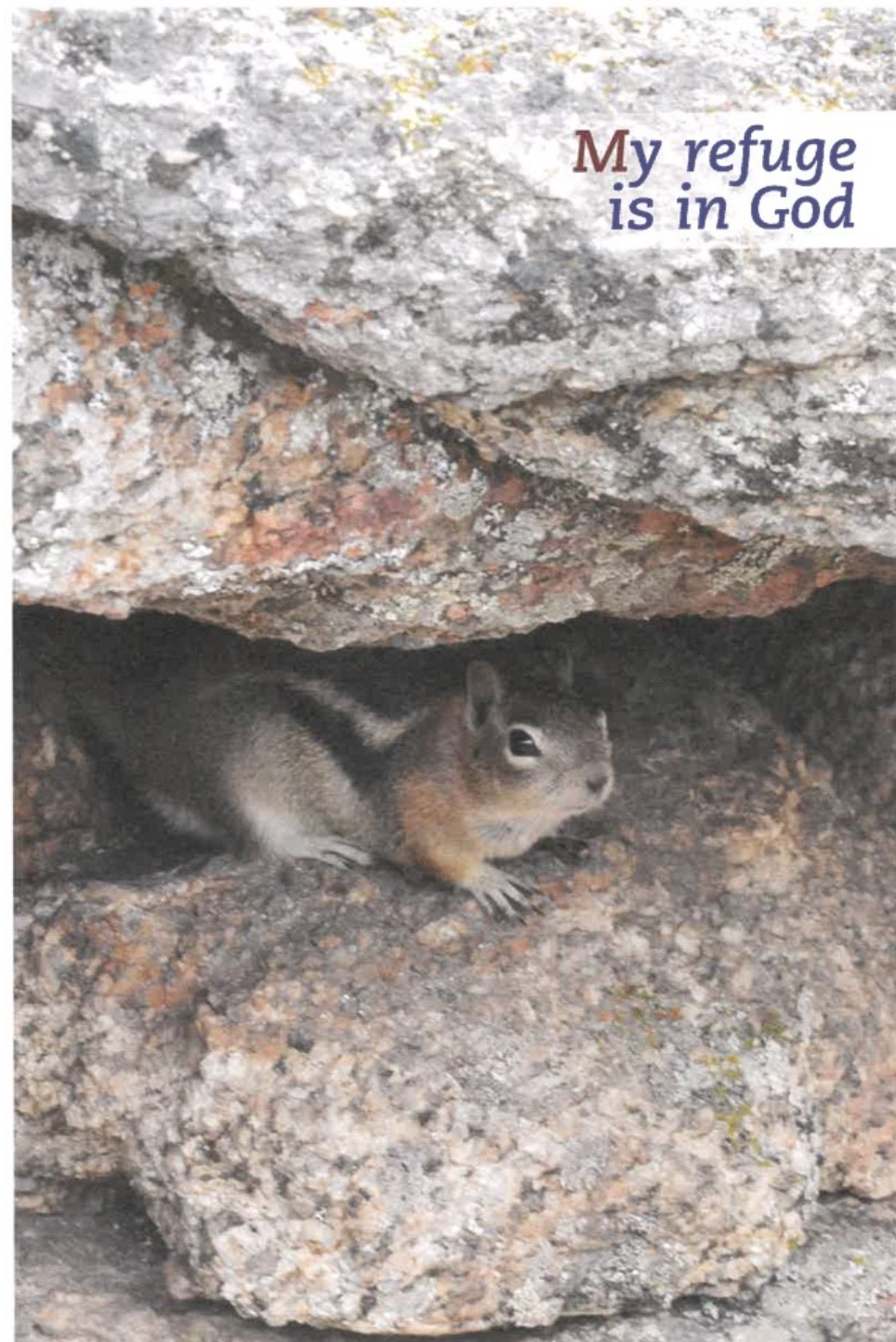
*Healing Light
flowing up to us in love
shimmering in the current
then glimmering with hope
In mercy
with peace
Healing Light
gifts of love*

—Paul Fry-Miller
North Manchester, Indiana

"On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, *my refuge is in God*" (Psalm 62:7, *NRSVue*). Today's Bible readings from the lectionary: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20.

January 21, 2024, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Photo by Chris Brumbaugh-Cayford © Church of the Brethren.

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CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hagerstown, Maryland

MORNING WORSHIP

10:45 AM

January 21, 2024

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

PRELUDE "Lead Me Unto Thee" (Southbridge)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Don Maas, Worship Leader

One: For God alone our souls wait in silence. Our hope is from
 God, our fortress.

*All: God is our rock and our salvation. God is our refuge and our
 deliverance.*

One: Trust in God at all times, in all places. Pour out your hearts
 to the One who hears.

*All: All people are valuable in God's sight. No one is more
 important than another.*

One: Worship God, who is ready to speak to us. Open your lives
 to God's steadfast love.

*All: All power in the universe belongs to God. Yet God depends
 on our faithful service.*

***OPENING PRAYER**

We await your message, God of all places and times. Sometimes we do not like what we hear, but we know we need to listen. Your message is inclusive and fair, while we like to make distinctions that favor us and our friends. You call us out of our comfort zones to do new things and try better ways. You direct us to reach out to people with whom we seem to have little in common. Speak your truth to us in this service so we can carry it to the places where you want us to go, to the people you are eager to reach. Amen.

***HYMN** "Jesus calls us; O'er the tumult"

[Verse 1]

*Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice
 soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me!"*

[Verse 2]

*As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and
 kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.*

[Verse 3]

*Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that
 would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"*

[Verse 4]

*In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares
 and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"*

[Verse 5]

*Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine
 obedience, serve and love thee best of all.*

A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

Our nets are full enough to share God's bounty. Our hearts are open wide to the needs of others. Let us reach out and share what we've been given.

We joyfully give as one body, both gathered in his house of worship and gathered through virtual technology. We give by placing our offerings in the plate, mailing to or dropping off at the church, or using PayPal. Together, as we give, we declare our dedication to Jesus and our obedience to serve him.

Offertory "Song of Devotion" (Hughes)

***Response #119** "Doxology"

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, Steadfast Rock of all Salvation, we marvel at the strength of your compassion and your ability to offer forgiveness. We come to you, hungry to be part of the good news you are bringing forth, for we would be part of the realm you are revealing. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES

Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.

Please do not share any personal information you do not want to be made public.

An usher will hold the microphone for you while you share.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN #447 "O Jesus, I have promised"

[Verse 1]

O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end.

*Be thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend.
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.*
[Verse 2]

*O let me feel thee near me, the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within,
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.*
[Verse 3]

*O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control,
O speak, and make me listen, thou Guardian of my soul.*
[Verse 4]

*O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be.
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end.
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.*

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:14-20 NT 35

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” 16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. 17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

CHOIR ANTHEM “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” (Carter)
 Temple Choir

MESSAGE “Meeting People Where They Are”
 Pastor Twyla Rowe

***HYMN #229** “Lord, you have come to the lakeshore”
 [Verse 1]

*Lord, you have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones.
You only asked me to follow humbly.*

[Refrain]
*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, kindly smiling, have spoken my
name. Now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek
other seas.*

[Verse 2]
*You know so well my possessions; my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
but nets and fishes - my daily labor.*
[Refrain]

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, kindly smiling, have spoken my
name. Now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek
other seas.*
[Verse 3]

*You need my hands, full of caring, through my labors to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.*
[Refrain]

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, kindly smiling, have spoken my
name. Now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek
other seas.*
[Verse 4]

*You, who have fished other oceans ever longed-for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.*
[Refrain]

*O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, kindly smiling, have spoken my
name. Now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me; by your side I will seek
other seas.*

***BENEDICTION**

*After the Benediction, you may be seated.
Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

***POSTLUDE** “Arise, O True Disciples” (Glyncannon)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.  
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