

## Solid and Steadfast

Have you ever described someone as being your “rock”? Perhaps it’s a parent or grandparent. It might be a sibling, or a spouse. Maybe it’s a friend, or a mentor. They’re the people we can depend on, who keep us grounded, who offer a reassuring presence even when everything around us seems to be swirling out of control.

The Old English language gives us a word for such people: steadfast. Its literal meaning is “fixed in place,” someone or something standing firm. It’s not a word we use frequently today, but it appears regularly in the Scriptures—more than two hundred times in the New Revised Standard Version, particularly in the Psalms.

We see again and again that God provides this solid and centering presence for the Hebrew people, despite all the challenges they endure. And they sing their thanks. In Psalm 136, this phrase repeats in all twenty-six verses, like a modern-day litany: “For his steadfast love endures forever.” Those same words appear at the start of Psalm 107: “O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.” They are echoed several times in the verses that follow, and they echo right up to our time.

Today we live in gratitude for all the rocks in our lives, and especially for the One who is the ultimate source of steadfastness—our refuge, our strength, our rock.

*God, our rock: We join people through the ages in singing our praises for your steadfast love. As we gather for worship, fill us with the confidence that no matter what this day—or any day—might hold, we can depend on you to journey through it with us. Amen.*

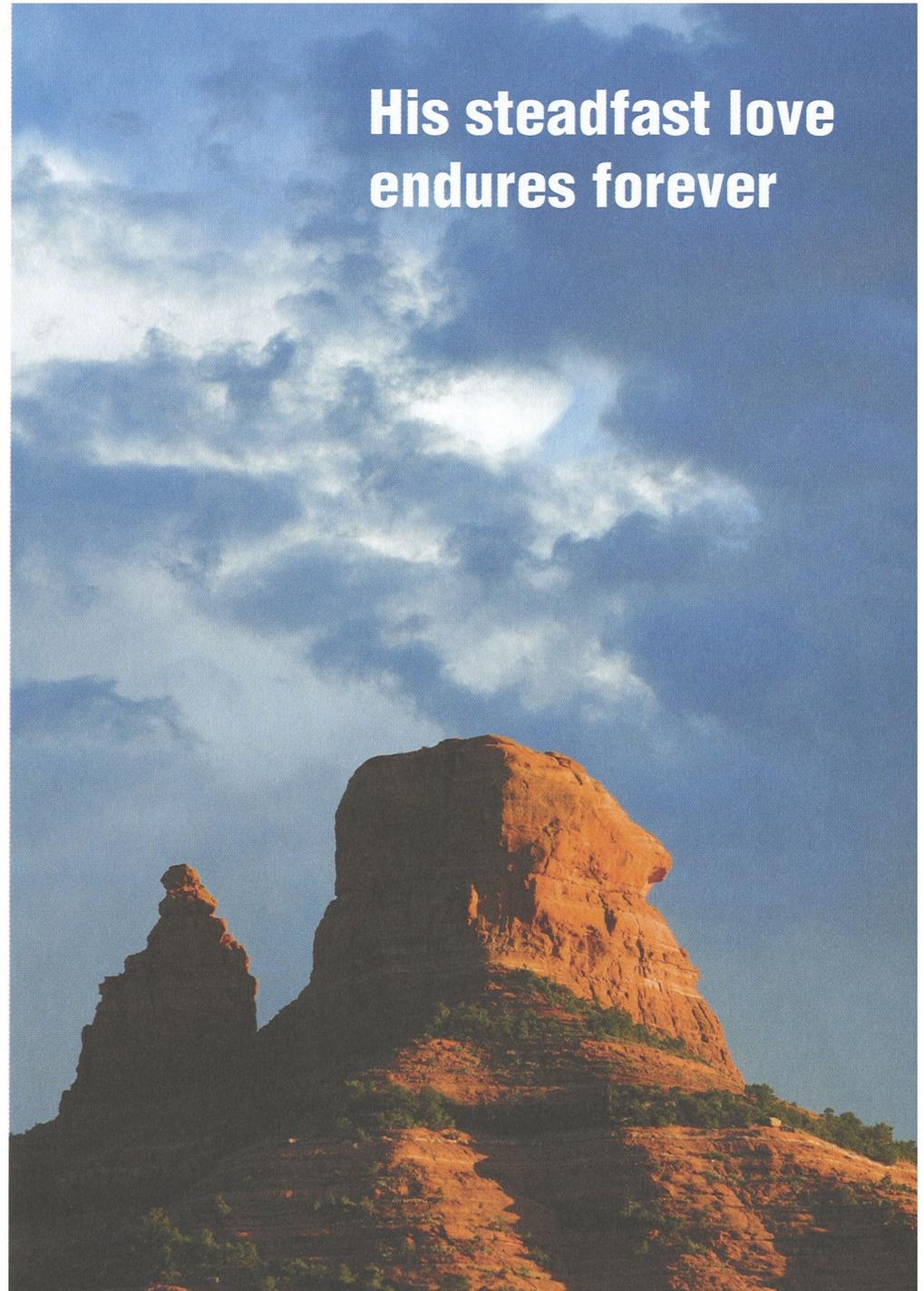
—Walt Wiltschek  
Easton, Maryland

**Text for today:** “O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for *his steadfast love endures forever*. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south” (Psalm 107:1-3, *NRSV*). **Bible readings for today:** Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 (1); 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41.

Photo © 2021 Tom Hissong. Used by permission  
06-20-21, Father’s Day. Printed in the USA  
Worship resource © 2021 Brethren Press

BR-P-21-25  © Anchor/Wallace

Produced for Brethren Press



**CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland**

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:00 AM**

June 20, 2021

Communion Sunday and Fathers' Day

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "This Is My Father's World" (Arr. Page)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Justine Beachley, Worship Leader

One: In the midst of life's storms, God is there.

**All: What have we to fear?**

One: In the darkness and terror, God is with us.

**All: Of whom shall we be afraid?**

One: Rise up, people of God, for you are loved and saved.

**All: Thanks be to God who cares deeply for us.**

**\*HYMN** "Be Still My Soul"

[Verse 1]

*Be still, my soul! for God is on your side;*

*bear patiently the cross of grief or pain:*

*leave to your God to order and provide,*

*who through all changes faithful will remain.*

*Be still, my soul! your best, your heav'nly Friend*

*through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

[Verse 2]

*Be still, my soul! for God will undertake*

*to guide the future surely as the past.*

*Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;*

*all now mysterious shall be clear at last.*

*Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know*

*the voice that calmed their fury long ago.*

[Verse 3]

*Be still, my soul! the hour is hastening on*

*when we shall be forever in God's peace;*

*when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,*  
*love's joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.*

*Be still my soul! when change and tears are past,*  
*all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Mighty God, who speaks a word of peace to calm our troubled sea; Caring God, who nudges us away from fear and toward faith; Ever-present God, who fills us with awe but also raises many questions without easy answers; Open our eyes to see you in our boat—today, strengthen our hearts for the challenges that lie ahead, open our ears this hour to hear the word you speak. This we pray, In Jesus' name. Amen.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

God has lifted us up from the gates of death. We will praise God with all we have to give. Christ walks with us through difficult days and sleepless nights. We give thanks for the church that proclaims good news. The Holy Spirit meets us in our weakness with a love that will not let us go. All this we want to share with the world. These moments of giving represent the commitment of our lives to God.

You may place your offering in the plate at the front of the church during the offertory, if you have not done so yet. Or if you are watching the service online, we virtually pass the offering plate to you. You can prepare your offering to be mailed to or dropped off at the church this week; or you can use Paypal on the Hagerstowncob webpage.

*(continued)*

**Offertory** "Love of the Father" (Paxton)

**\*Doxology #119** "Praise God from whom"

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray. Thank you, God, for meeting us in our need. We give that others in even greater need might not be forgotten. We are grateful for the trust you place in us. We give that others might respond to the good news of your love. We are hearing the word Jesus spoke in the midst of a storm: "Peace! Be still!" with fresh calm and confidence, we give ourselves that others might live. Thank you, God, for your steadfast love endures forever. 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.*

### **FATHERS' DAY POEM AND PRAYER**

"My Earthly Dad"

By Mary Fairchild

With these three words,

"Dear Heavenly Father,"

I begin my every prayer,

But the man I see

While on bended knee

Is always my earthly dad.

He is the image

Of the Father divine

Reflecting the nature of God,

For his love and care

And the faith he shared

Pointed me to my Father above.

Heavenly Father,

Today we ask You to bless our earthly fathers for the many times they reflected the love, strength, generosity, wisdom and

mercy that You exemplify in Your relationship with us, Your children.

We honor our fathers for putting our needs above their own convenience and comfort; for teaching us to show courage and determination in the face of adversity; for challenging us to move beyond self-limiting boundaries; for modeling the qualities that would turn us into responsible, principled, caring adults.

Not all our fathers lived up to these ideals. Give them the grace to acknowledge and learn from their mistakes. Give us the grace to extend to them the same forgiveness that you offer us all. Help us to resist the urge to stay stuck in past bitterness, instead, moving forward with humility and peace of heart.

We ask your blessing on those men who served as father figures in our lives when our biological fathers weren't able to do so. May the love and selflessness they showed us be returned to them in all their relationships, and help them to know that their influence has changed us for the better.

Give new and future fathers the guidance they need to raise happy and holy children, grounded in a love for God and other people - and remind these fathers that treating their wives with dignity, compassion and respect is one of the greatest gifts they can give their children.

We pray that our fathers who have passed into the next life have been welcomed into Your loving embrace, and that our family will one day be reunited in your heavenly kingdom. We ask these things for our fathers today and every day...

*(written by Tony Rossi)*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*(continued)*

**SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 4:35-41**

NT 38

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

**MESSAGE**

"Overcoming the Storms of Life"  
Pastor Twyla Rowe

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

"Breathe" (Barnett)  
Pastor Twyla & Don Rowe

**SERVICE OF COMMUNION**

**Unison affirmation of faith for the bread:**

*"The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ."*

**Unison affirmation of faith for the cup:**

*"The cup which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ."*

**\*HYMN #558**

"When the storms of life are raging"

[Verse 1]

*When the storms of life are raging, stand by me (stand by me);  
When the storms of life are raging, stand by me (stand by me);  
When the world is tossing me like a ship upon the sea,  
Thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me (stand by me).*

[Verse 2]

*In the midst of tribulation, stand by me (stand by me);  
In the midst of tribulation, stand by me (stand by me);  
When the hosts of hell assail, and my strength begins to fail,  
Thou who never lost a battle, stand by me (stand by me).*

[Verse 3]

*In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me (stand by me);  
In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me (stand by me);  
When I do the best I can, and my friends misunderstand,  
Thou who knowest all about me, stand by me (stand by me).*

[Verse 4]

*In the midst of persecution, stand by me (stand by me);  
In the midst of persecution, stand by me (stand by me);  
When my foes in war array, undertake to stop my way,  
Thou who savèd Paul and Silas, stand by me (stand by me).*

[Verse 5]

*When I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me (stand by me);  
When I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me (stand by me);  
When my life becomes a burden, and I'm nearing chilly Jordan,  
O Thou Lily of the Valley, stand by me (stand by me).*

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

**POSTLUDE**

"God of Majesty and Hope"

(Miller)

~~~~~

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

~~~~~