

STEADFAST LOVE

A LENTEN PLAYLIST

HEAD ABOVE WATER

BY AVRIL LAVIGNE

Lyrics:

I gotta keep the calm before the storm
I don't want less, I don't want more
Must bar the windows and the doors
To keep me safe, to keep me warm
Yeah, my life is what I'm fighting for

Can't part the sea, can't reach the shore
And my voice becomes the driving force
I won't let this pull me overboard

**God, keep my head above water
Don't let me drown, it gets harder
I'll meet you there at the altar
As I fall down to my knees
Don't let me drown**

So pull me up from down below
'Cause I'm underneath the undertow
Come dry me off and hold me close
I need you now, I need you most

And I can't see in the stormy weather
I can't seem to keep it all together
And I, I can't swim the ocean like this forever,
And I can't breathe

God, keep my head above water
I lose my breath at the bottom
Come rescue me, I'll be waiting
I'm too young to fall asleep

Reflection:

Avril Lavigne wrote this song about her years-long battle with Lyme disease. She says, "I had accepted death and could feel my body shutting down. I felt like I was drowning. Like I was going under water and I just needed to come up for air. Like I was in a river being pulled in a current. Unable to breathe. Praying to God for Him to help me just keep my head above the water...I hope that my words in this song bring you hope, faith, light, and strength and that you also are able to keep your head above the water."

Compare the chorus of the song (bold) to Psalm 27:6. - "Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD."

Have you or someone you've known ever had a near-death experience?

When you struggle, who helps to keep your head above water? Are you a helper to others who are struggling?

What is the difference between being hidden "under water" and being concealed by God "under her wings"?

CONCEAL ME

March 16, 2025

9:00am



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

GATHERING

Gathering and Greeting

*Introit

A Mighty Fortress

UMH #110

Hymn by Martin Luther; Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to
undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph
through us.

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Children of God, when you are surrounded on every side by shadows that frighten and voices that deride and confuse, what do you say?

People: God is our light and our salvation! Whom shall we fear?

When threats bombard you from every corner, stealing the security and peace you long for, what do you say?

God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

When anxiety and loneliness overwhelm and you do not know who or what to trust any more, what do you say?

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Because God knows our suffering. God makes a home among us, welcoming us to come home to God and one another.

Come! Let us worship God who hides us in the day of trouble and conceals us together under the cover of the tent of Love.

***Lenten Hymn**

You Are My Hiding Place
by Michael Ledner

TFWS #2050

You are my hiding place
You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance
Whenever I feel afraid, I will trust in you
I will trust in you
Let the weak say, "I am strong in the strength of the Lord"

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

Nurturing God, we come hungering for your word. Feed our spirits on our Lenten journey that we may go forth in courage to witness to your truth. Amen.

The Psalter

Psalm 27:1-8; 13-14

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh-- my adversaries and foes-- they shall stumble and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

4 One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

6 Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14 Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

***Gospel Lesson**

Luke 13:31-35, NRSV

13 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

13 He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.

13 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

13 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

13 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The Word of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

Small Talk

Jodi Gutierrez

Sermon

"Conceal Me"

Rev. Jon Snape

***Hymn of Response**

Children of the Heavenly Father

UMH #141

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness

We live in the shadow of peace, O God, but too often, we face the shadow and not the light. We pray for peace today because we know we are not a whole people without it. **Forgive us our warring madness, our abuse of power, and our disregard of the rights of others. Lift from us the burden of the need always to be in control. Teach us the ways of mutual love for all people. Help us to give peace a chance. Amen.**

*Passing the Peace

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

Offering & Offertory

*Doxology

UMH #95

The Great Thanksgiving

UMH page 15-16

Receiving Bread and Cup

Prayer After Receiving

UMH page 11

SENDING FORTH

***Hymn of Discipleship** God Will Take
 Care of You
 Hymn by Civilla Martin

UMH #130

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,
 God will take care of you;
beneath his wings of love abide,
 God will take care of you.

**REFRAIN: God will take care of you,
through every day, o'er all the way;
 he will take care of you,
 God will take care of you.**

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,
 God will take care of you;
when dangers fierce your path assail,
 God will take care of you. (Refrain)

All you may need he will provide,
 God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied,
 God will take care of you. (Refrain)

***Dismissal with Blessing**

***Closing Hymn** On Eagle' Wings

UMH #143

1. You Are My Hiding Place

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Michael Ledner

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2. Prayer of Confession

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