

Devotion – Week of March 13, 2022 – Second Week of Lent
Rev. Jeanne Simpson

Thoughts from Henri Nouwen:

You are a hiding place for me;

You preserve me from trouble;

You surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Psalm 32:7*

Life is an increasing call to let go of desires, of success and accomplishment, to give up the need to be in control, to die to the illusion of greatness. The joy and peace that Jesus offer are hidden in the descending way of the cross. There lie hope, victory, and new life, but they are given to us when we are losing all. “Those who lose their life will gain it” (Luke 9:24).

No one likes to feel out of control. In fact, for many of us, we take pride in our ability to be ordered and organized, in control of our days. But no matter how much we want to enforce order on our lives, inevitably, something happens and we lose control.

Loss of control is not something that just happens to us; it is the inevitable consequence of living in a fallen world. In this season of Lent, we are reminded that there is only one who is actually in control. God can give us the meaning and the satisfaction in life that we all crave.

When we let God take over, we actually find that we don't need to always be in control. And then we also discover that we are truly free.

May you feel the freedom to let go this week and cling to God for your needs.

Jeanne