

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 25, 2022

10:00 AM

*“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your
will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may
know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me
to face my perils alone.” (by Thomas Merton, **Seeds**)*

PRELUDE

Aria

Flor Peeters

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christian Life Groups begin TODAY, following the worship service.
- Women's Breakfast at Manny's Deli, Wednesday (9/28) at 9 AM.
(There will be no "Bible Study for Everyone" this week)

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

(inspired by Psalm 146:2a, 5-8)

MANY: Hallelujah! We will praise the Lord as long as we live!

ONE: Happy are those who have the God of Israel as their helper, whose hope is in the Lord their God. He is the one who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them.

MANY: Hallelujah! We will praise the Lord as long as we live!

ONE: He is the one who keeps every promise forever, who gives justice to the oppressed, and food to the hungry.

MANY: Hallelujah! We will praise the Lord as long as we live!

ONE: The Lord frees the prisoners. The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts the burdens of those bent beneath their loads. The Lord loves the righteous.

MANY: Hallelujah! We will praise the Lord as long as we live!

HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise Sing

LEONI

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,

The Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!

The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed,

We bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.

In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.

Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand,

Deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

**Your godly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
A land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.**

**There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
And trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.**

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;

Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.

We praise You, living God! We praise Your holy name:

The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(inspired by Luke 16:19-31, 1 Timothy 6:6-19)

The blessings of each day: food to eat, clothes to wear, contentment with all we have, whether rich or poor. This is life in your kingdom. How difficult, Lord, to walk along this road when the world tempts us with much that we desire, but do not need. Forgive our weakness, and teach us again to know the contentment of having enough, and sharing not only from our riches but also from our poverty.

(We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.)

RESPONSIVE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: This is the good news that comes from God: I will hear your prayers, I will answer with hope and peace, I will deliver you from your sins.

MANY: God has covered us with grace; under God's hope we will find shelter. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,

And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 16:19-31

SERMON

A Place at the Table

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

Outside My Gate, Outside My Door

O WALY WALY

**Outside my gate, outside my door,
Is someone there who's lost or poor?
Is someone there I do not see —
That I walk by — who has a need?

Is there a child who longs for care?
An older friend who needs a prayer?
Someone who seeks a helping hand?
A refugee new to this land?**

**Outside our church, is someone near
Who cries in pain, who lives in fear?
Is someone close who has no way
To buy the food she needs this day?**

**Some gates are made of wood or stone,
And some are made of sin alone.**

**Some doors are made of greed and pride;
They also keep the poor outside.**

**As we look out, Christ, may we see
Our common, shared humanity.
May we kneel down and serve you more
Outside our gate, outside our door.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY *(Choir)*

Lead Me, Guide Me

Doris Akers

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

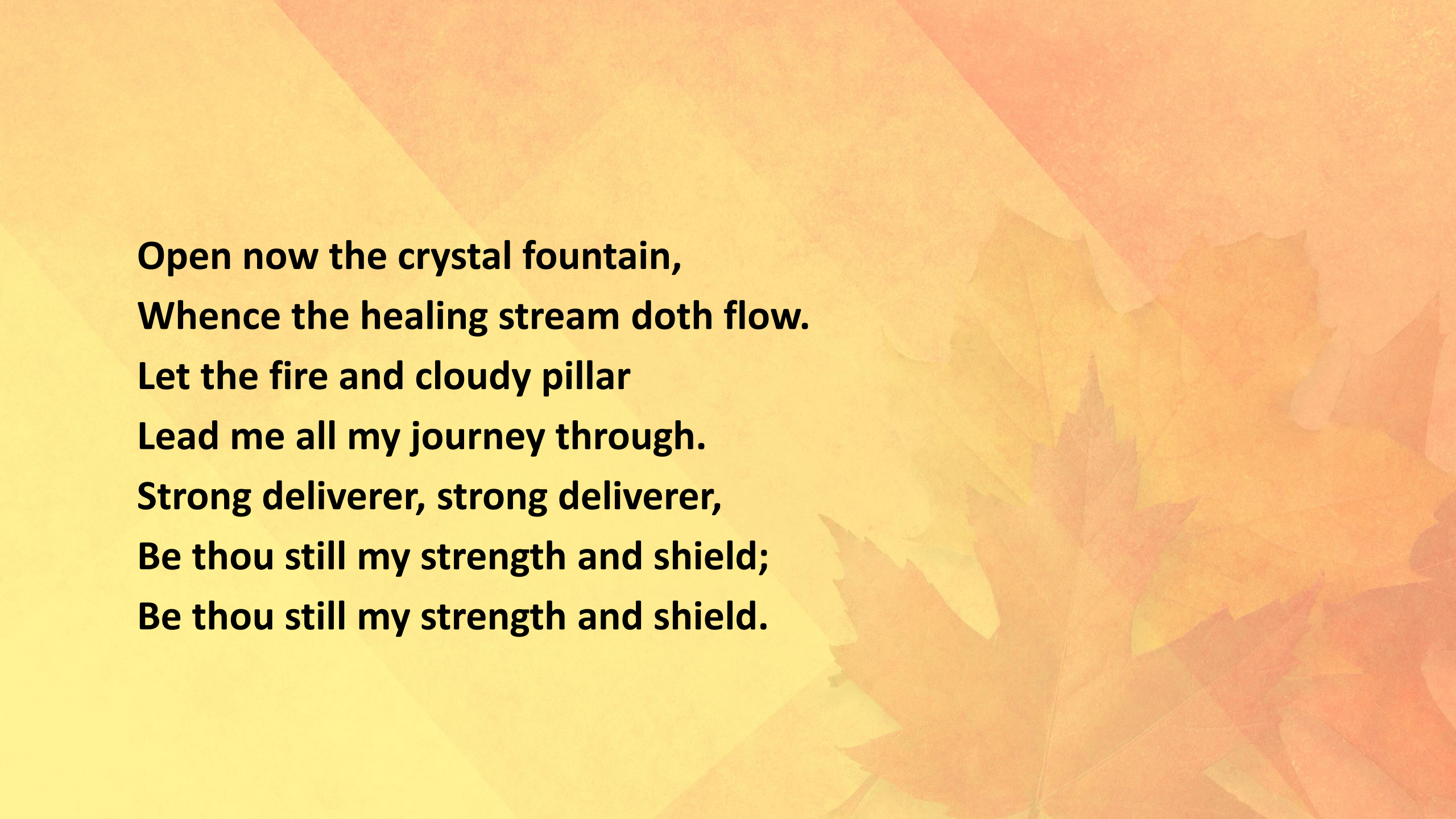
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

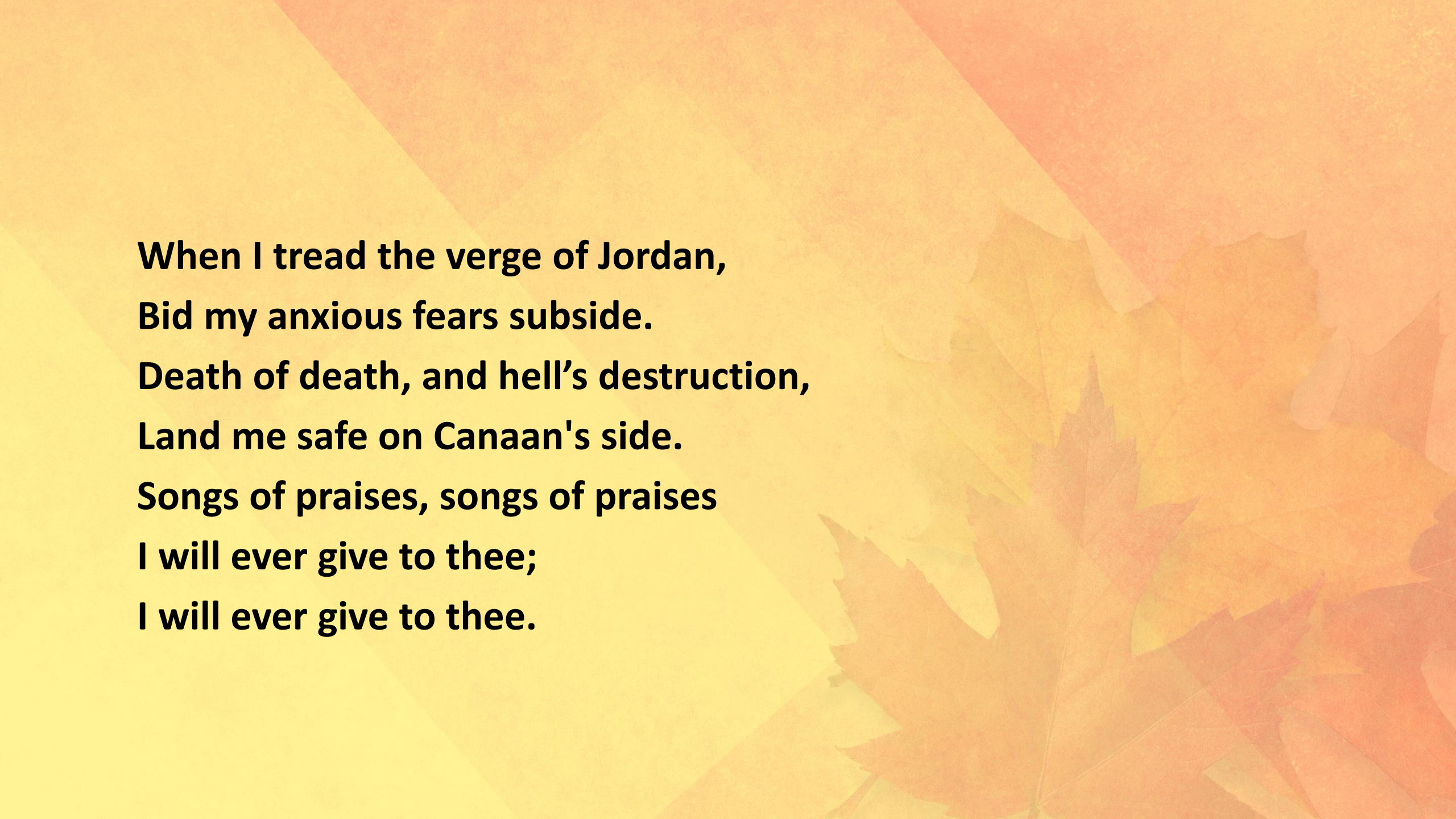
Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.**

The background features a warm, golden-yellow to orange gradient. On the right side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent autumn leaves in shades of orange and red. A large, faint circular light effect is visible on the left side, creating a soft glow.

**Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.**



**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.**

RESPONSIVE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

ONE: Go now and take hold of the life that really is life. Shun the eagerness for money but be rich in good works. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. And may God be your refuge and fortress; May Christ Jesus free you from all that ensnares you; And may the Holy Spirit provide you with everything for godliness and contentment.

**MANY: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Cwm Rhondda

Setting by Paul Manz

WORSHIP NOTES:

The prayer at the top of today's bulletin was written by Thomas Merton, Trappist monk and prolific writer. It can be found in a volume of his meditations edited by Robert Inchausti and published by Shambhala Publications Inc., Boston & London, 2002.

The **Prayer of Confession** is written by John Birch, and posted on his Faith and Worship website. Visit that site for many other excellent worship resources. <http://www.faithandworship.com>.

The Prayers of the People are written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Mucky Paws. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>

The **Sermon Hymn**, “Outside My Gate, Outside My Door” is written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette from her collection, *I Sing to My Savior: New Hymns from the Stories* in the Gospel of Luke. Self-published by carolynshymns and posted online at www.carolynshymns.com. Used with permission.

The **Benediction** is written by Nathan Nettleton and posted on his blog at LaughingBird.net.

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