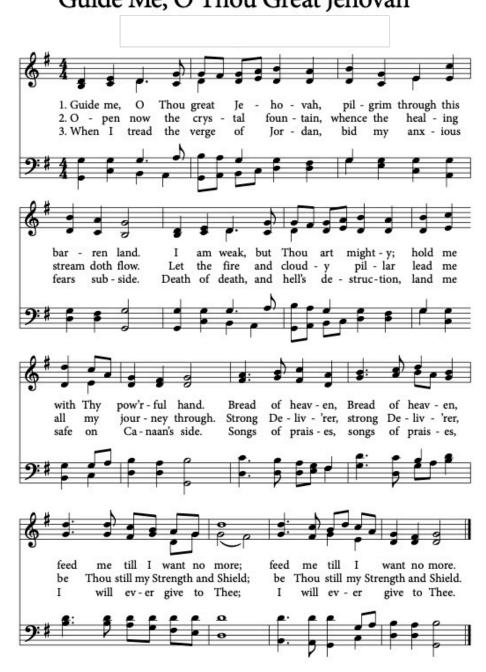
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah



TEXT: William Williams, 1745 MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907 CWM RHONDDA 87.87.87.7

THE FIELDS CHURCH — HYMN OF THE MONTH MAY 2023

uide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah may be less familiar to some of us, but it has been well known in Wales since the mid-1700s. You can still hear it sung in churches, royal weddings and funerals, and even by crowds at rugby matches.

William Williams, its author, lived during a major spiritual revival known as the 'Great Awakening.' He became a prominent preacher during this time after being called to Christ and ministry while studying to be a doctor. He was a true wordsmith who loved both preaching and poetry, as evidenced by rich lyricism in over 900 original Welsh and English hymns.

As a traveling evangelist, Williams suffered many long journeys to go and preach the gospel. Perhaps that's why the original title for this hymn was "Prayer for strength for the journey through the world's wilderness." The text captures our desperate need for God's help on such journeys by referencing the journey of the Israelites through the wilderness into Canaan, the Promised Land. God alone proved to be their guide and provider during that time in Israel's history.

In the New Testament, when facing a spiritual wilderness of disbelieving crowds, Jesus declares himself as the bread of life and source of living water. He crossed over "the verge of Jordan" through his death on the cross, yet emerged victorious in the resurrection. Through faith in Jesus, God promises to guide every believer through this journey of life, since he Himself is our Creator, Guide, Provider, Savior, and even our Destination.

Here is one of the Welsh verses not usually sung in English:

Angau creulon yn ei rym,
Ti est trwyddi gynt dy hunan,
Pam yr ofna'i bellach ddim?
Buddugoliaeth! Buddugoliaeth!
Gwna imi waeddi yn y llif!
Let

Cruel death in its force –
Thou Thyself suffered this before,
Why shall I fear further?
Victory! Victory!
Let me cry out in the torrent!

Scripture to consider:Isaiah 43:1-7John 7:37-38Psalm 48:14John 4:13-15Revelation 22:1-5

Psalm 105:39-41, 43 John 6:31-35