

Together on the borders



Image Credit: Unsplash / David Grandmougin

'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.' Isaiah 43:2a (NRSV)

Call to worship

From *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*

Reader 1: Jesus said, "Follow me."

Reader 2: We don't always know what that means.

Reader 3: We are on a journey of discovery.

Reader 4: We are here because we want to be God's people;

Reader 5: we are here because we are broken and want to be whole again;

Reader 6: we are here to celebrate our lives, and God's presence in this life.

ALL: LET US WORSHIP GOD WITH GREAT THANKSGIVING.

Opening song

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

1 Guide me, O my great Re - dee - mer, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the cry - stal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are migh - ty;
wa - ters flow. Let the fire and clou - dy pil - lar
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's Des - truc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of hea - ven, bread of hea - ven,
lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong De - li - verer, strong De - li - verer,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prai - ses, songs of prai - ses

feed me now and e - ver - more, feed me now and e - ver - more.
e - ver be my strength and shield, e - ver be my strength and shield.
I will e - ver sing to you, I will e - ver sing to you.

Text: William Williams (1717-1791);
st. 1 tr. Peter Williams (1723-1796), alt;
st. 2-3 tr. William Williams, alt
Tune: John Hughes (1873-1932)



87 87 877
CWM RHONDDA
www.hymnary.org/text/guide_me_o_thou_great_jehovah

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Scripture

Isaiah 43:1-7 (NRSV)

43 But now thus says the LORD,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
3 For I am the LORD your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
4 Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
5 Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;
6 I will say to the north, “Give them up,”
 and to the south, “Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
 and my daughters from the end of the earth --
7 everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made.”

Reflection

Reflect silently for a few minutes, then turn to a neighbor and discuss:

- ♦ *What is one difficult “border crossing” you’ve made or attempted in your life, and how was God present? (You might think of a “border” as a physical border, a body of water or a challenging transition in your life.)*
- ♦ *How does that “crossing” shed light for you on the experiences of refugees, victims of violence and human trafficking, and those seeking asylum at the U.S. border?*

Visual reflection

Study the illustration on p. 1, then turn to a different neighbor and discuss:

- ♦ *What do you see in the picture? How does it enhance your understanding of verse 2 in the Isaiah passage?*

Song of response

Sing the song once in English and then twice in Spanish.

595

Holy, Holy, Holy

Santo, santo, santo

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a-dores you! My
San-to, san-to, san-to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a-do - ra! Mi

5

heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!
co - ra - zón te sa - be decir: ¡San-to e-res, Se - ñor!

Glory to God 595
 TEXT: Trad. Argentine
 MUSIC (ARGENTINE SANTO 6.7.8.5): Trad. Argentine

Closing prayer

To Reach Across Borders, by Catholic Relief Services

Join hands for the closing prayer. Each participant may read one sentence aloud until the prayer is completed.

Lord of All,
Some of us make our homes on hills, others in valleys.
Some in tall buildings, some on shorelines, some at risk on the street.
And we divide up our patches with lines we scratch into the ground
And call them borders.
Where the lines don't suffice, we build fences.
Where fences fail, we dig moats.
Where moats aren't enough, we erect walls.
But what if we were to look across these borders?
Across fence, moat, and wall
And see you on the other side?
Lord, teach us to reach across all borders,
Fabricated or natural,
To join with all our brothers and sisters
To unify, and not separate.
To honor all who wander
Seeking hope, seeking opportunity -- seeking you.
As assuredly as we seek you
Lord, let no border ring our hearts.
May we find a place within them for all.
Turn our hands from building walls
Toward building justice.
Stretch our arms across fence, wall and moat
To seek out those on the other side
That we might find you in each other's eyes
In each other's hands
In each other's wounds.
AMEN.

Blessing

Blessing the Way, from Jan Richardson's *Circle of Grace*

Leader:

With every step
you take,
this blessing rises up
to meet you.

It has been waiting
long ages for you.

Look close
and you can see
the layers of it,

how it has been fashioned
by those who walked
this road before you,

how it has been created
of nothing but
their determination
and their dreaming,

how it has taken
its form
from an ancient hope
that drew them forward
and made a way for them
when no way could be
seen.

Look closer
and you will see
this blessing
is not finished,

that you are part
of the path
it is preparing,

that you are how
this blessing means
to be a voice
within the wilderness

and a welcome
for the way.

Sharing the peace

Greet one another with the peace of Christ.

WORSHIP DESIGN BY GRETCHEN E. ZIEGENHALS

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