

God Gives Us Himself

In the creation,
 God gave us Himself.
He engulfed us in
 His power,
 His wisdom,
 His eternity,
 His love and light and life.

Throughout Israel's forty years in the wilderness,
 God gave them Himself.
He Himself was
 their constant guidance,
 their cloud by day and
 pillar of fire by night.

He was
 their daily bread,
 their water from the rock,
 their healer,
 their teacher,
 their protector,
 their unfailing provider.

And when they arrived in the Promised Land,
throughout all their ups and downs,
their blessings and failures,
 God gave them Himself.

He was
 their Champion,
 their leader, and
 their source for every need.

Through the law and the prophets,
 the tabernacle and the temple,
God did everything He could to immerse them in
 His presence and
 His goodness.

And then one night,
 in the deep darkness,
His centuries-long promise came
 beautifully,
 unexpectedly true.

All that God is –
 almighty,
 all-wise,
 everlasting,
 all-loving
came to them.
He shared all they were,
 minus their sin,
and He shared with them all He is.
He bathed their lives in Himself
 in a way they had never
 known or imagined.
The All-in-all,
 beautiful in holiness,
 smiling and
 touchable,
was now flesh and blood,
 their Brother.
God Himself was now
 with them and
 for them and
 in them
forever.

Hymn: God Gives Us Himself

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