

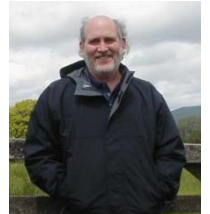


Anthem: "Shepherd Me, O God"
Based on Psalm 23

Music by Marty Haugen
Arranged by Mark Hayes

"Moving" is a word to describe the lyrics of this anthem. The music's simplicity and the smooth underlying voice movements allow for the emphasis of the lyrics as well as provide a feeling of calm assurance that is the tone of Psalm 23 itself.

C. Michael Hawn, SMU Professor of Church Music at Perkins School of Theology, wrote about the lyrics found in hymn #2058 in *The Faith We Sing*. He feels "Shepherd me, O God" demonstrates the composer's gift as a musical composer and as a writer of texts. Hawn calls attention to the refrain as an example of Haugen's "sensitivity and creativity" in paraphrasing Psalm 23 which places it in "contemporary life." He also noted Haugen begins with a petition to God; and he doesn't use "shepherd" as a noun, but instead uses "shepherd" as a verb.



Haugen

It is easy to focus on all of the things our Shepherd provides for us as His sheep. However, there is another element of which to be aware. The closing words of the psalm can be summed up as "I will dwell in the presence of the Lord forever." That means the shepherd will be present and on the scene twenty-four hours a day; it also means sheep will instinctively want to have the shepherd in its full view at all times.

adapted from *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23* by W. Phillip Keller

Prayer: Lord, I can be frightened and feel lost in this world when I lose sight of You, just as a sheep who loses sight of its shepherd. Thank you for being the Good Shepherd. I know to keep my eye on you every day of my life, so that I am empowered to live a worthwhile life led by You. Amen

Anthem Lyrics

Refrain Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

1. God is my shepherd, so nothing I shall want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.
2. Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your Name.
3. Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.
4. You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.
5. Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore.