



MORNING HAS BROKEN July Hymn of the Month

"Morning Has Broken" is a popular Christian hymn first published in the second edition of "Songs of Praise" in 1931. This songbook was widely used in schools in England and its editor, Percy Dearmer, later wrote of how the compilers wanted a hymn to give thanks for each day, so they asked English author Eleanor Farjeon to compose a poem using the lovely Scottish tune, *Bunessan*.

Eleanor was born in London, February 13, 1881. She was a sickly child and so was educated at home. Her father, Benjamin Farjeon, was a popular novelist of the time and he encouraged her to write from the age of five. At the age of 16 Eleanor wrote the lyrics for an opera, with music by her brother Harry, which was produced by the Royal Academy of Music. She eventually earned a living as a journalist, broadcaster and writer of nursery rhymes and children stories. She won the Carnegie Medal and the first Hans Christian Anderson Award for "The Little Bookroom" in 1955.

The Gaelic tune, *Bunessan*, was first published in Lachlan Macbean's "Songs and Hymns of the Gael" in 1888 as a setting for Mary Macdonald's carol "Child in the Manger." The tune is named after Macdonald's birthplace on the Isle of Mull, Scotland.

Farjeon's poem achieved international fame when Cat Stevens' recorded it in 1971. It became a hit, rising high in the charts in the UK and in the USA.

Though "Morning Has Broken" was written as a hymn for children it has been included in numerous current hymnals. "It praises God for the sights and sounds of the new day and likens each dawn to the very first day in the Garden of Eden." Dale Grotenhuis harmonized the tune for the Psalter Hymnal in 1985.

Eleanor Farjeon died on June 5, 1965 in Hampstead England. During her lifetime she won many prestigious literary awards and an annual prize is presented in her name to this day by the *Children's Book Circle*.

Resources: Oystermouthparish.com; www.britannica.com; Hymnary.org; Wikipedia

Worship Schedule

Mission Statement: to proclaim Christ's love to all people through Worship, Study, Fellowship, and Service.

8:30 am Worship in our Outdoor Sanctuary

9:30 am Sunday School for all ages

10:45 am Worship in our Sanctuary

5:00 pm Worship in the Fellowship Hall

*Food is always welcome though during the 5:00 pm service



St Joseph Mission Trip

Pastor William Brown, Matt Gutierrez and Shona Murdock with Joey Gutierrez, Mitchell Watson, Derek Corrigan and Alyssa Layman

