

God, As on the World's First Morning

Hyfrydol 8.7.8.7.D ¹

God, as on the world's first morning,² paints the earth with ev'ry hue,
with a rainbow's brush³ adorning visions filled with life anew.
From the glory of sunrises to the beauty of sunsets,⁴
all creation harmonizes with the praise God's work begets.⁵

A bright dawn of hope resplendent shines for all humanity
through the One whose love transcendent binds us in community.⁶
God awakens our volition to value ecology
as we join in loving mission, living our theology.⁷

Through the sun illuminating ev'ry culture, land, and race,
rays of hope are emanating with the blessings of God's grace.⁸
Through the One whose resurrection conquered darkness, death, and strife,
we now serve as Christ's reflection, sharing gifts of light and life.⁹

Working for a new creation in the world that God designed
bringing health and education that will bless all humankind.¹⁰
At God's table all-inclusive, Christ's pure light outshines the sun
and with love and life effusive all people unite as one.¹¹

¹ The 8.7.8.7.D meter of the hymn text is adaptable to other hymn tunes (i.e., *Holy Manna*, *Beach Spring*, *Beecher*, *Hymn to Joy*, *Rustington*, *Weisse Flaggen*). The tune, *Hyfrydol*, was chosen because of its flowing melody that seems to convey the warmth of light.

² In Genesis, God's first act of creation was light.

³ The rainbow is a color-filled image that speaks to the covenant between God and humankind. It also represents the covenants that are made with the partners of Solar Under the Sun. The brush suggests that the Master Artist is still painting the world with new life.

⁴ This phrase highlights the SUTS slogan – "From the rising of the sun to its setting, the Lord's name be praised."

⁵ Because the use of solar power is environmentally friendly, all creation can praise God.

⁶ God is moving among us to reveal a new day, a new dawn, of hope-filled horizons that empower the human community to treasure the wonder of God's love and to share in God's work.

⁷ As disciples who follow the light of Jesus Christ, we live what we believe with such conviction that we also anticipate a restored creation.

⁸ Because the new dawn of hope envelops all people of the earth, God blesses us with opportunities to order life according to the loving purposes of God.

⁹ Not only does Christ's resurrection inaugurate a new reality and new life for all humankind, but it also summons Christ's disciples to serve as reflections of the One who is the Light of the world (John 8:12). As John's gospel highlights, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people" (John 1:4).

¹⁰ Illumined with God's light, we are inspired to participate in shaping God's new creation that is characterized by a new order of health without infant mortality and by a new community where all people will build houses and enjoy the fruit of their vineyards (Isaiah 65:20-22).

¹¹ At the Lord's table where all creation is invited, Christ's transforming light binds us together in unity so that even the wolf and the lamb will feed together (Isaiah 65:25).