

3rd November 2020

Morning

“The world is always turning towards the morning.”

Song Title, Gordon Boc

The hymn, *The Day Thou Gavest*, is one of my wife's favourites. It was written by John Ellerton, vicar of Crewe Green in Cheshire in the 1860s.

*The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.*

Ellerton became chairman of the education committee of the Mechanics Institute of the local Railway Company. Setting about reorganising the Institute, he made it one of the most successful in England and taught classes in English and Bible History. One evening, walking home after teaching classes at the Institute, Ellerton was aware of how beautiful the night was. Familiar with the “morning and evening” rhythm of the Anglican Communion, the moment brought to mind Bible verses such as, “From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised” in Psalm 113:3. And he utilised this powerful metaphor as the framework for his hymn.

*We thank Thee that Thy church, unsleeping,
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping,
And rests not now by day or night.*

*As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.*

When we enter the weariness of the night, all the world is keeping watch, and someone, somewhere, is experiencing the dawn of another day, one that brings them joy. As Gordon Boc's song reminds us, “The world is always turning towards the morning.” That gives me hope today, and for that hope, with John Ellerton, I give thanks and praise to God.

A prayer for today

Loving God, as the world turns towards the morning, let me turn to your love. Amen

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