

1st July 2026

Light

**"Light of the world, undimming and unsetting!
O shine each mist away;
Banish the fear, the falsehood, and the fretting'
Be our unchanging Day."**

Horatius Bonar, *Light of the World*

Here's a hymn of praise, written following a day's walking in East Lothian. From the first rays of the morning sun to the beauty of the moon and stars over the Forth, I was simply in awe at the wondrous glory of our creation. What could I do but give thanks for the Light of Life?

The hymn is set to the melody *Yorkshire* (or *Stockport*) by the 18th century English composer, John Wainwright. But, for a different mood, the beauty of *Finlandia* is a fitting tune too.

I see the sun rise o'er the eastern hills,
A glimpse of hope, dispelling morning chills,
To offer all the promise of the day,
With gold and red replacing black and grey.
Give thanks to God that dawn has conquered night,
And puts the shadows of the past to flight.

I see the moon hang high above the sea,
Filling the sky, as full as it can be.
Its silver rays dance on the rippling tide:
The lovers' hope; the weary travellers' guide.
Give thanks to God, and wonder at the sight
Of such a gift as this, our guardian light.

I see the panoply of stars once more,
Millions of glistening lights from heaven's store,
Lifting my gaze beyond my earthly sphere,
Calling my heart to seek a new frontier.
Give thanks to God when width, and depth, and height
Are here displayed, and all for our delight.

Give thanks to God for every sun that shines,
And every moon, and nature's grand design
That holds the stars and planets in their place,
And marvel at the vastness of our space.
Give thanks to God, and praise this gift of light,
As with all thankful hearts we now unite.

A prayer for today

For the light of faith, the light of hope and the light of love, I give thanks today. Amen