

# Abraham Journeyed to a New Country

BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D ("Morning Has Broken")



Ab - ra - ham jour - neyed to a new coun - try; Sar - ah went  
Ma - ry and Jo - seph feared Her - od's or - der; Sol - diers were  
Some heard the pro - mise— God's hand would bless them! Some fled from  
Did they know hard - ship? Did they know dan - ger? Who shared a  
God, our own fam - ilies came here from far lands; We have been



with him, jour - ney - ing too. \_\_\_\_\_ Slaves down in Eg - ypt fled Phar - aoh's  
com - ing! They had to flee. \_\_\_\_\_ Tak - ing young Je - sus, they crossed the  
hun - ger, fam - ine and pain. \_\_\_\_\_ Some left a place where oth - ers op -  
home or gave them some bread? \_\_\_\_\_ Who reached a hand to wel - come the  
stran - gers, "al - i - ens" too. \_\_\_\_\_ May we reach out and of - fer a



ar - my; Ruth left the home and a peo - ple she knew.  
bor - der; So was our Lord a young re - fu - gee.  
pressed them; All trus - ted God and star - ted a - gain.  
stran - ger? Who saw their fear and gave hope in - stead?  
wel - come As we have all been wel - comed by you.

Biblical references: Genesis 12, Ruth 1; Matthew 2:13-16, 10:40; 25:31-46; Hebrews 11, 13:2; Leviticus 19:18, 33-34

Tune: Gaelic melody

Text: Copyright © 2010 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Email: [bcgillette@comcast.net](mailto:bcgillette@comcast.net) See also <http://carolynshymns.com/>

Permission for free use of this hymn is given to churches that support the Office on Immigration Issues of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

## Hymn Note for "Abraham Journeyed to a Far Country"

Text: Throughout the Bible, we see stories of immigrants—people called to settle in new lands and begin new lives for a variety of reasons, people who trusted in God's protection along the way. Abraham and Sarah heard God's promise of a new land. Exodus is the story of God's people being led from slavery to the freedom of the Promised Land. Later, Ruth went with Naomi, her mother-in-law, because her love of family led her to take risks and leave the home she knew for a new home. Jesus himself was a refugee in Egypt when his parents had to flee from Herod for his safety. Jesus taught that one of the greatest commandments is to love our neighbors; these neighbors include foreigners (Luke 10:25-37 with references to Leviticus 19:18, 33-34). He also taught that all people will be judged on their compassion for those in need and their welcome of strangers (Matthew 25:31-46). Today, people are immigrants for many of the same reasons that these biblical people were. The Church is called to follow the Bible's teachings by welcoming and supporting immigrants today. Check out the web site of the Office on Immigration Issues of the Presbyterian Church (USA): <http://oga.pcusa.org/immigration/>

Tune: The hymn tune, Bunessan, is a traditional Gaelic melody that was originally associated with the 19th century Christmas carol, "Child in a Manger," by Mary Macdonald. When the Gaelic hymn was translated into English, the melody was named after the small village on the Scottish island of Mull by the translator, Lachlan Macbean. Eleanor Farjeon wrote a new hymn to this tune, "Morning Has Broken," that was published in 1931.

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is the author of *Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor* (Discipleship Resources/Upper Room Books, 2009) and *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* (Geneva Press, 2000) and the co-pastor of Limestone Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware.

This congregation includes first generation immigrants from Brazil, England, Ghana, India, Scotland and South Africa, and provides space for a Ghanaian Presbyterian Fellowship. A complete list of Carolyn's 160+ hymns can be found at [www.carolynshymns.com](http://www.carolynshymns.com).