

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

# We Lift the Light of Hope

TUNE: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (CORONATION)

♩ = 92

G D Em D G D7 Em  $\frac{G}{D}$  D7 G

1. We lift the light of hope, O God, Your pres - ence burn - ing bright.  
2. We lift the light of peace, O God, The Lord of truth and right.  
3. We lift the light of joy, O God. Your praise is our de - light!  
4. We lift the light of love, O God, Your can - dle in our night.  
5. We lift the light of Christ-mas day And greet e - ter - nal life.

D G D  $\frac{G}{B}$  G  $\frac{GD^7sus}{B A} G \frac{D}{F\#} G$  D G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  Em  $\frac{D}{A}$  A D

In praise we sing the gift You bring: Our hope com - plete in Christ.  
In Your do - main let jus - tice reign And bring us peace in Christ.  
Your bless - ings flow that all may know Un - bound - ed joy in Christ.  
You come to give and help us live The might - y love of Christ.  
Now hope and peace and joy and love Are born in Je - sus Christ.

G G  $\frac{G}{B}$  G  $\frac{D^7sus}{D} \frac{G}{D} D$  Em  $\frac{G}{B}$  C  $\frac{G G^7sus}{D D} D^7sus D^7 G$

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Now hope and peace and joy and love Are born in Je - sus Christ.

WORDS: Ken Bible  
MUSIC: Oliver Holden

CORONATION  
C.M.

Alt. Tunes: AZMON; AMAZING GRACE

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TOPICS: Advent; Christmas

LEAD-IN: *The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.* (Isaiah 9:2, NIV)

See also the readings, “Lighting of the Advent Candles”, under “Hymns by Topic”, “Advent”.

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

## Hope Has No Ifs

Hope keeps us going. Positive expectations pull us forward. On a day-to-day basis, where life is mostly lived, these expectations are often tied to circumstances. Our satisfaction has an “if”:

If I had the day off tomorrow...  
If I could sleep late in the morning...  
If I had a week’s vacation...  
If a big raise would come through...  
If I could get out of this job into a new career...

We tend to hinge our happiness on developments that are both out of our reach and doomed to disappoint when they arrive. Time off work proves to be a mixture of joy and turmoil, like the rest of life. That big raise evaporates into the family budget. The new career eventually becomes just another job.

We place our hopes on things that are too temporary to meet our true needs and too shallow to touch the root of our discontent. Our lives are thus driven by misdirected hopes and dragged down by restlessness and frustration.

But we don’t have to let circumstances define our joy or fruitfulness. Recall your personal encounters with God—when you first trusted Him for salvation, and when you’ve trusted Him since on matters big or small. Sensing His reality and His presence, you tasted a satisfaction and a settled rest that are more constant than temporary situations. They grow from a hope that is deep and unchanging.

We all experience a certain restlessness in life. We find ourselves reaching for more, whether that “more” be new purchases, physical pleasure, or personal achievement. But bring your restlessness to God. Direct your restless seeking toward Him, making Psalm 62 your testimony:

*My soul finds rest in God alone...  
My hope comes from him...  
Trust in him at all times...  
Though your riches increase,  
do not set your heart on them.* (Psalm 62:1, 5, 8, 10, NIV)

When God becomes the focus of our seeking, our satisfaction is no longer an “if”. All His promises, all His love ever wanted for us, all He is, has come to us in Jesus Christ. As we look to

Him and trust Him, He becomes our happiness and our hope. Only Jesus Christ brings rich and satisfying contentment.

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