

Behind the Hymn: We Lift the Light of Hope

I had met Dave Leeman several years before at a meeting of the Church Music Publishers Association. In November, 2004, he wrote me in his role as a local church music director. He had often used my hymns and was using our free Christmas musical, *Infant King*. He wrote to make the suggestion that led to the writing of *Jesus Loves Me (Christmas)*.

In follow-up correspondence received the next January 22, Dave made another suggestion: that I write a carol for use with the lighting of the Advent wreath. That immediately sparked interest. My own local church, Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene, had long used the Advent wreath, and I knew how meaningful it could be. I could imagine a hymn helping to bring home the message of each candle. I felt that the hymn would need to be:

- To a familiar tune, for easy use
- Thoroughly Christ-centered
- Useful for the ceremony yet unceremonial, reflecting the warmth and depth of the salvation Christ brings
- Perhaps useful beyond the wreath ceremony

For a tune, CORONATION (*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*) came to mind. I liked the strong, positive feeling it would bring to the text. The verses would be long enough for separate usage on the various Sundays of Advent.

Work began that same day, Saturday, January 22. Verse 1 was a struggle, but once it was done, verses 2-5 flowed out smoothly. The hymn was completed on January 26, 2005.

Lord, thank You for bringing fellow believers into my life, with their encouragement and creative ideas.

--Ken Bible

Hymn: [We Lift the Light of Hope](#)