



Carols

Week 2: O Holy Night (December 6 & 7)

A **thrill of hope** the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a **new and glorious morn**

God planned a positive future for you

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us" - Augustine

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, **to give you a future and a hope.** *New Living Translation*

Lamentations 3:20 I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. **21** Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: *New Living Translation*

1. Hope comes when we know God's mercies are new every day

Lamentations 3:22 The **faithful love** of the Lord never ends! **His mercies** never cease. **23** Great is his faithfulness; **his mercies begin afresh each morning.** *New Living Translation*

Psalms 30:5 ...Weeping may last through the night, but **joy comes with the morning.** *New Living Translation*

2. Hope comes when we know God rewards those who seek Him

Lamentations 3:24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" **25** The Lord is good to **those who depend on him,** to **those who search for him.** *New Living Translation*

Hebrews 11:6 And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that **he rewards those who sincerely seek him**. *New Living Translation*

3. Hope comes when we know God doesn't work on our time clock

Lamentations 3:26 So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the Lord. *New Living Translation*

It's amazing the difference one day makes

- We can live 40 days without food
- We can live 8 days without water
- We can live 4 minutes without oxygen to the brain
- We can live a few seconds without hope

God came through for others while they were waiting

- Lazarus was dead 4 days before Jesus raised him from the dead (John 11:17-43)
- Woman with the issue of blood was sick 12 years before she was healed (Mark 5:25-34)
- The man at the pool of Bethesda laid there 38 years before he was healed (John 5:1-8)

God rewards us even if our faith doesn't seem to work

Hebrews 11:39 These were all commended for their faith, yet **none of them received** what had been promised *New International Version*

1 Corinthians 15:19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. *New International Version*