

O Almighty King, as we continue to remember your birth, may we look to the future with hope of the promise. You came 2,000 years ago wrapped up to be our sacrificial lamb. You came to die, suffer, and be filled with sorrow. But with the Cross you brought HOPE. Through the pain we see blessing. Through hurt we see Your plan. With 2017 here, we know hardships are coming. Deep grief may be just around the corner, but we hold on to HOPE. We hold on while the sky is dark to the promise of the Light. For You are our Light and You are coming again. While we wait, we know you have not left us alone. The Spirit is here. Not only to guide, teach, and correct - but He comes to comfort. To give us HOPE when our hearts are weary. To give us PEACE when we feel the anxiety. To give us STRENGTH to keep fighting. To give us REST as we lay our burdens down at your feet. Amen.

