



The Eighth Day of Christmas
January 1, 2021
"New Redemption Song"

How does *new* Christmas music come into existence? One of the joys and comforts of the Christmas season is in surrounding ourselves with old, familiar carols and melodies. But how do we get new ones?

One of my favorite albums of Christmas music is actually an album of new Christmas music by a band called *Over the Rhine*, and my favorite track on it is called, appropriately, "New Redemption Song." One of the things I love about this simple tune is not only that it's trying to add something to the Christmas canon – but also that it's trying to remind us that we do need new songs every once in a while.

It's also a reminder that we need God's help to find songs – and words, and prayers, and lyrics – that will help us live into the promises of Christmas. "Won't you help us please, help us just to sing along" – it's not just hope for some new music, but a plea that God will reshape the words on our lips, and the melodies in our hearts, so that we might live as transformed children.

That's a Christmas refrain I can sing along to – and good word of hope, in a new song, for a new year.

Prayer

Gracious God, we don't always know the words you would have us pray, or the songs you would have us sing. But we trust that you can help us find them. Transform our words, our prayers, and our songs into instruments of your peace, in the promise of this newborn season and your newborn son. Amen.

Matt Gaventa
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Listen: ["New Redemption Song" by Over the Rhine](#)