

# The Saintly Christmas Message

Dear friends of Jesus:

Everyone is saying that these are unprecedented times. They certainly are in my lifetime. And certainly the life of Christian communities are now more delicately in the balance. Today, then, the strength of our faith is so important. And today I want to encourage all those who are part of Wrington and Lynch chapels to keep on keeping on. Keep on trucking, no matter what.

If there is one nugget I frequently mine from the scriptures, it is the truth that we are never alone. I believe that single truth to be the treasure to which we must cling. God never promises that all will be sugar-coated and wonderful, but he promises his presence. God never promises to do everything for us, but he promises that we can lean on him. God never promises that all our prayers will be answered, but he promises to walk every step with us. God never promises that today will be easy, but he promises an ultimate future of glory and joy.

That is the underlying essence of Christmas. We must keep Jesus in the centre; because all those promises I've mentioned above are made real in him. Because of that child, who was born for us, lived for us, died for us, and rose again to call us to himself, the barriers are torn down and God's Spirit lives within. We do not know what tomorrow will bring. And, if we're honest, we never have. The earth may rock, the floods may come; but I encourage you to hold fast to Jesus.

It struck me the other day that we are all Santas. Santa, of course, means 'saint.' And scripture tells us that all who say yes to Jesus, and follow his way, are beloved saints of God. It doesn't depend on the Pope declaring you worthy, it merely depends on God's word.

Therefore, all you little Santas, hold fast to your sainthood. Live the lives of the saints you are, and trust God to bring that ultimate sunshine. The clouds will clear. Trust God for future joy, but live also in the joy of today, knowing you are still his, you still have Jesus, and nothing, not even Covid-19 can take that from you.

Have a blessed Christmas, Santas all.

Duncan