

To the Gateway family



Wow, December, Christmas is coming!

As I sit to write this Pastor's Pen, I can't seem to get the words of a well-known song out of my head.

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name

On Christ the solid Rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand

Many words could and have been used to describe 2020, unprecedented being one of them! Lives have been affected by the Covid-19 virus and the global impact. God tells us categorically that we are to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15), calling us to be sensitive to those around us and what they are going through and to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

This year we have gone into lockdown, self-isolated, quarantined, shielded, been restricted on many if not all levels of our lives. We have faithfully clapped the NHS and frontline workers at 8pm on a Thursday night, socially distanced from each other, worn facemasks and sanitised our hands repeatedly!

We have done things above and beyond the 'normal' if we can even remember what that was or looked like for ourselves and others. We have adapted, we've navigated, invented, re-invented, developed and dug in. Who remembers V.E. day? In our street we had a socially distanced street party, where the neighbourhood came together in solidarity and decorated the street, with red, white and blue bunting (even the Davison household had a Union Jack hoisted high).

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There is no point in pretending that the 'world' knows the reason for the season, we could gather in a holy huddle on zoom of course and wax lyric about 'when we were children' or we, you and I, can decide to do something different. Be inventive, be creative. INNOVATIVE.

There are many words and phrases that underpin the message of Christmas, Emmanuel – God with us, Good Tidings of Great Joy, Unto us a Child is Born, Joy to the World, Glory to God in the Highest, Hope, Peace, Righteousness..... Salvation!

(continued next side)

To the Gateway family (cont)

I remember years ago, getting some chicken wire (mesh fencing) and a string of outdoor lights. Using the wire mesh I was able to spell the word 'Glory'. I took my sign and put it for all to see in the bay window of the house. In Northern Ireland, everybody knew what Glory stood and stands for, His Glory, Glory to God in the highest. It was a one-word declaration and proclamation for all to see!

Christmas is coming!

We've already been reminded to 'SMILE', now I would encourage you to 'Shine'. Jesus has come, Jesus has transformed your life, Jesus your Lord and Saviour, Jesus the Light of the World now lives and abides in you.

Praise God, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

This year, in these unprecedented times when so many focuses have caused depression, anxiety, fear and loneliness to be on the rise, let us lift high the name of Jesus for all to see.

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God bless

Pastors Marty & Rebeca

the gateway **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME**  
ELIM CHURCH

6<sup>th</sup> Dec: Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

13<sup>th</sup> Dec: Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am  
Family Service @ 1:00pm

15<sup>th</sup> Dec: Prime Time Special (Zoom) @ 2:00pm

20<sup>th</sup> Dec: Nativity Service @ 10:30am

25<sup>th</sup> Dec: Christmas Day Special @ 10:00am (Online only)

27<sup>th</sup> Dec: Sunday Morning Worship @ 10:30am

All meetings, unless otherwise stated will be held in the Church  
and streamed on YouTube

