

December 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I love to listen to Amy Grant, the Christian recording artist. I especially love her Christmas music. She has a great mix of both faith-based tunes and secular Christmas music. One of her secular Christmas songs is titled "A Christmas to Remember." As with many of her songs she co-wrote the song. Here is a sample of that song with the second verse and the refrain:



*I know it's true
Time doesn't stand still
Many things can change
But we know some things never will
The memories we share
The songs we always sing
The mystery of life
The hopefulness this season brings
And I have a dream or two
Maybe they will come true*

*Setting our hopes on a big snow tonight
We'll wake up to a world of white
It's gonna be a christmas to remember
Light up the fire, play some Nat King Cole
Always sentimental and don't you know that
It's gonna be a Christmas to remember*

We know that for everyone of us this year our holidays will be experienced in ways they never have been before. In some ways, many people see that as a loss. We can't be with family. Most churches are not having in-person Christmas worship services. It feels as if we cannot possibly experience the full "meaning of Christmas."

But I encourage you to remember, that with most things in life we get out of it what we put into it. If we are not willing to have a joyful attitude and a willing spirit then our Christmas, our worship experience, our life will not have the same meaning or impact.

Will our Christmas be different this year? Absolutely! But every year there is something different about each Christmas. Even from Sunday to Sunday, we are affected differently by what we experience in our worship services (in-person or virtual) whether it is the scriptures, the sermon, the prayers, the hymns, the weather, our individual moods, or our own attitude.



So yes, this will be a “Christmas to Remember” for so many reasons. Reasons that we will treasure and even reasons that we might wish we could forget. I saw this Christmas ornament and thought “Boy does that sum up the year 2020.” We can’t forget this year and we shouldn’t for a multitude of reasons. But let us hold onto the blessings and let go of the trials and tribulations.

And let us remember that there are some things that are unchanging. The most important one being the love of God that manifested itself in the form of Jesus Christ who made himself so weak and humble that he was born of poor, refugee parents in an occupied land. Jesus, Messiah, whose humble beginnings as he was laid in a manger and worshipped by poor shepherds (themselves on the margins of society) led to an even more humble death upon a cross surrounded by criminals. Jesus, Redeemer, who has granted us unconditional grace and mercy. Jesus, Savior, who claimed victory over the grave with his glorious resurrection. Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us now and always. That is what we remember. That is what we celebrate! That is what is unchanging: this year and always.

I pray you all have a blessed Christmas and that the spirit of the season and the love of Christ dwell within you throughout the entire year.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Sara

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Luke 2:11 - 14 (KJV)