Christmas, 2020

The wonder and stunning beauty of Christmas is with us again! Don't you feel its peace and promise blanketing and soothing the struggle, losses and pain of the past months? As we open the Scriptures and reread the familiar declarations of joy..."For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6), "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14), and "God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son" (John 3:16), our hearts cannot stand still, but leap upwards and embrace these powerful truths.

The word "pandemic" is on everyone's lips these days, but even the power of this virus pales before the complete and perfect pandemic provision for salvation in the Son. The Bible assures us that Jesus was given by God to all of us... to die in our place for our sins, to be raised to life again, then to live and reign forever. This awesome God has commanded us to love Him — not just to confess our sins and to have faith in Him — but to love Him! God intends that we live loved and forgiven, our hearts overflowing with adoration and love for Him! No wonder our joy is at full measure during this Christmas celebration as we contemplate the greatest Gift ever given. No wonder our love for Him drives us to worship, to sing our beloved hymns, to long for His return! He is worthy of it all!

I wish you all a very blessed, joy-filled Christmas — a glorious celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the whole world!!!

And with that wish, another too, that this may be the year of His return! "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20).

With Love at Christmas!

Valley View Baptist Church, Shakopee, MN 55379