

December 2021

Bishop Ruth's Christmas Message

I wonder, what's at the heart of Christmas for you? Perhaps it's the sound of the children excitedly getting ready for Christmas, perhaps it's the feasting and the family, or the presents, the tinsel, and the tree. Last year Christmas wasn't quite as we'd normally have it, and this year we're still a little uncertain. But having cancelled our Christmas plans last year when my husband got covid, this year we are pulling out the stops, we're looking forward to having our children and our grandchildren around us and that sense of being able to have our family together.

But what is at the heart of Christmas? It's not just about the pressie giving, it's not just about the food we eat, it's recognising that this is somebody's birthday. A special day when we remember the coming of Christ as a child into a humble human family; God becoming one of us. So, the presence of God, God with us is what we're really looking forward to this year. How might you prepare your heart for that coming? How might you celebrate with joy, peace and hope, something of the light of Christ coming into a world that still feels somewhat dark, somewhat gloomy, somewhat uncertain as to its future? But knowing that God loves us so much he wants to be present amongst us.

For us this year, rather than thinking about how we spend our money on our family, our friends, or how we might feast and have lots of fun together, we are also thinking about how we might welcome Christ into our midst and celebrate that birthday that has changed the world.

A very happy Christmas to you and your family this year, and lots of blessings for the new year to come.