

Pastoral Letter: December 2020.

Beloved members, adherents and friends of Udny and Pitmedden Parish Church.

We come to an end of a difficult, strange and sometimes scary year. Our lives have been impacted by a virus, followed by lockdowns and restrictions and, where we thought it would have been weeks rather than months, we start realizing now that it may even be years, before we are 'set free' again to live the lives we are intended to live.

During this year I learned appreciation more than anything else. I also learned we can't rely on anybody to keep us safe, even in the strictest of lockdowns, or in the face of new vaccines discovered, I have learned this year, we can only rely on the everlasting presence of God. This comforts us and this changes us:

***"In the midst of hate, I found there was within me, an invincible love.
In the midst of tears, I found there was within me, an invincible smile.
In the midst of chaos, I found there was in me, an invincible calm.***

***I realized, through it all,
that in the midst of winter, I found there was in me, an invincible summer.***

And that makes me happy.

For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger, something better, pushing right back."

This is my Christmas and New Year's wish for each and every one of you. May you find that invincibility within you, the everlasting light of the Christ, awakening within you.

May this difficult 2020 be your Damascus road experience, your baptism in the River Jordan, your moment in the desert confronted by the evil in this world when the light shines within you and you hear the voice comforting you: ***'You are my beloved.'***

We are where we are supposed to be.

Sundays the doors at Pitmedden Church are wide open with a bell at 10:00 refraining the invitation of Christ: ***"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Those who are thirsty, come drink of the water that I will give you, and you will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give will become in you a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."***

Sunday worship services go on as normal every Sunday morning at 10 am, we have space in the Church, come and join us. Our **Watchnight Service** for Christmas will be on Thursday 24 December at 11 pm in Pitmedden Church.

We look back so that we can look forward with confidence and hope. May you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed 2021.

God be with us all.
Gert Janse van Rensburg