

## A Message for Christmas and our new Year



Hello to all our Midtown Family and Friends.

Let me first wish each and every one of you a blessed Christmas Season and offer us all a prayer that we sense God's presence and power through the hope and joy that comes from knowing Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Would you all love to hear an understatement? Here it is: **“2020 has been a really hard year”**.

What has made this even more difficult for our congregation here at Midtown is that 2018 and 2019 weren't that easy either! In fact, 2020 was supposed to be the year it all started to come together and began to get easier. After a hard few years in the Theater at the old UFV complex we “graduated” to the school gym at A.D. Rundle and were beginning to settle into the new spacious and bright surroundings there. It was not perfect, but it felt so good to set up our nice comfortable chairs and enjoy all looking forward and not at each other.

Then came Covid19. And our world changed.

Since then it has been remarkable how all of you stepped up, masked up, cleaned up and lifted up our church family. Whatever it took to serve, our leaders and volunteers did what they could to help with live services, special events and outreach. As servants of Jesus Christ all of you pulled together and put politics aside so that others needs came before your own. It was such a support to us as Pastors to see that people didn't just say they were there for us, but they proved it through generous giving, supportive emails, cards, and phone calls.

We have a lot of challenges ahead as we face 2021 together. Our new building should be ready by late summer. We now have been offered permanent office space inside the current school building and look forward to renovating that together. God has opened up an opportunity to obtain our mortgage money at a significantly

lower rate. There is so much to be grateful and excited for in our partnership with Cascade Christian School and the dream is so much closer to being realized. But we have some rough waters to sail through first. The first 6 months of 2021 will still be quite a challenge.

But we are confident as Pastors and Board members at Midtown church that we can all do this together. We will continue to comply with our Health regulations in our province and use that as a basis from which to show our love for our community and our desire to serve people above all else. Our Lord Jesus has shown us a way forward by serving all of us out of love. When Peter needed to be reinstated because of his desertion Jesus said “Feed my sheep”. Serve my people. Get involved, do something for others; in humility consider others more important than yourself. That’s the way forward and God will continue to bless us as we move forward in our journey as a church.

I am going to take very personally God’s words through Isaiah in chapter 9:2  
*“ the people who walk in darkness, will see a great light, those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.”*

Let’s all take that to heart and ask God to make that a reality for our country and our world. We want to be a clear light and witness to Jesus Christ in our community in the coming years and we look forward to new ministry opportunities in 2021.

Merry Christmas everyone and a happy and blessed New Year!

On behalf of our Pastors and Board,  
Matt

