

**ST GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
KNYSNA
FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2020**



Dear Parishioners

Advent is on the 29th of November 2020. Covid has made a mess of the world. As the numbers increase in Knysna and Garden Route with more infections, meaning possibly more deaths, it all seems to be happening at a time which should in fact be in preparation for Christmas. We do not know the future, but we know, day by day, that Jesus will meet us in the future.

Luke 2:10. At the birth of Jesus, the Shepherds were out in the fields keeping watch over their sheep. Not easy being a shepherd and watching over the sheep. You cannot drop off to sleep or the sheep may wonder off, or a fierce wolf or bear may have come to take one of the sheep. They must always have lived in an uncertain state of being in fear — always on the alert to defend the flock. This night the sky filled with light and a new terror came upon them, but the Angel spoke to them and said, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very night in David's town, your Saviour was born – Christ the Lord."

It is easy to only see Covid and not see Jesus. It is easy to live in the fear and not live in the joy of the Lord. Let us put Jesus back into our understanding of Jesus with us and in us. What is the worst thing that could ever happen to us — to die — and then to see Jesus—it in fact it, will be the best thing to ever happen to us. Philippians 4:4-7 "Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice. Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus".

Let us put our faith and trust in the Lord. In prayer, pray for ourselves and others. Let us pray for the Garden Route and all who will visit in Advent and Christmas and let us all pray that people will be wise and stop the spread of the virus. Let us pray for people who have lived in fear for the past nine months, that they can find their peace in Jesus. We do not own our own lives, they belong to the Lord. We are the Lord's people because of what Jesus did for us. There has never been a greater time for the world to hear the message of God's Love for all people, and God's love came into the world in Jesus who came to die for us all that we can go to be with the Lord in heaven.

Let us not live in fear, but be like the shepherds, who trusted their flock to God and left to go see Jesus. Let us pray that many people, this Christmas season, will leave their fears and come to see Jesus and receive eternal life, and live in the peace, that transcends all understanding.

Be safe, be careful and keep praying and remember that you are always in the Lord.

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