



Dear Friends at Callander Bay Church,

“He’s making a list, checking it twice...” says the song “Santa Claus is coming to Town”. Christmas is often about lists. Gift lists. Christmas Card lists. Shopping Lists. Jenn loves lists. She is always making lists. She writes them in notebooks. Sometimes I will find lists from many years ago. I think she keeps them as trophies of past accomplishments. I like lists, but I am not very good at them. I have never been good at writing things down. Often when I make a to do list, my first “to do” is often make a to-do list. That way I can quickly tick off a box on the list.

Sometimes I have instead of making a “To Do” list wrote a “To Done” list. It is a list of things you have already completed. It gives you a sense of accomplishment – “Wow, look what I’ve done!” It is a far more reactionary way of living. To many 2020 has seemed like a very “to done” year. Things happened that we never imagined would have been on our list.



Global Pandemic

Attached to that are many sub-items like struggling to find toilet paper and other products. The closing of many stores and services, employment issues, online learning and church services, face masks, physical distancing, the postponing of events like holidays, weddings and funerals, and the closing of the border with our American friends. These are just some of the ramifications of this worldwide event. It has been a time of confusion, anger and often loneliness.

Many have experienced other significant, unplanned events on top of this like loss, sickness (in your life or in the lives of family members) and catastrophe. 2020 has certainly been a year we will never, ever forget.

The coming of Jesus to earth at Christmas was a tale of adversity as well. The circumstances that surrounded His advent were not the stuff that Christmas cards are usually made of. God took those hard times and made them into something historic. As author, Ralph Sockman, put it, “the hinge of history swings on a Bethlehem stable door.” God wants to remind us that he can take the most difficult of times and change them into something beautiful. He wants the top of our checklist to say:



God is Sovereign and in Control.

May this Christmas we be able to rest in His sovereignty, trusting that he is working all things our for good (Romans 8). May you experience that blessing of Emmanuel (God with us) and know the hope, peace, joy and love that only can be found in Christ, our Saviour.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor John and Jennifer Inthof