



January 2021

Dear Friends,

As we enter another COVID-19 lockdown many are experiencing anguish and despair with an underlying fear of the unknown, that sense that the familiar has gone for ever. It hasn't. We need to remember that there is a glimmer hope on the horizon — the vaccines. Over the last year we have learned a great deal about ourselves, our communities, our strengths and weaknesses, and have discovered a resilience and creativity we probably never knew we had.

In the Christmas season we often forget the great journey the Magi - the wise men - made made to follow the star. They must have been very tired, dusty, wondering whether they should give up; but they didn't. They went on, following the star. God was with them, as he is with us. God is with us. That is the message of Christmas — and of lockdown — for today and always.

May the world be freed of this virus that now plagues us;  
may those who are sick recover;  
may the vaccines be successful;  
may those who grieve be comforted;  
may those who are exhausted in caring for the sick be given new reserves of energy;  
may those who maintain the necessities for our daily life be kept safe;  
may those who fear for their livelihood, the economy and the future find hope.  
May God lighten the darkness  
and his love and grace lead us with hope to better times. Amen.

Stay safe. We'll get through this together.

*Rev'd Nicki*