

To our Southridge Family,

What a year it's been... If we've ever longed for the comfort and joy that Christmas can bring, it might be this Christmas, more than ever.

And yet, as we look back on the year we've journeyed through, our hearts are overcome with gratitude for this spiritual family and resilient community. In the midst of uncertainty, we've seen generosity. Within limitations and restrictions, your care and support to one another has been unlimited. As things we've taken for granted slipped away, your creativity to stay connected with one another, and to sacrifice your priorities and preferences for the sake of others, has inspired us.

We couldn't be more thankful for the gift you are to one another.

And now, as we celebrate Christmas in unusual times – for sure, a Christmas like no other – we remember the first Christmas; so full of unknowns, obstacles, and *less-than-ideals*, it's surprising it could even have happened at all. Starting with a long journey away from the comfort of community; to a lonely stable, designed for cows and sheep; to a sudden escape, from threats against safety. In the midst of these circumstances, our Saviour came into the world humbly, quietly, and some might even say “un-ideally”.

And yet, so joyfully!

Right in the middle of the challenges and obstacles, an angel cried out:

***“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all people. Because today, a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”***

Southridge Family: We are so proud of you. We're so grateful for each one of you. We feel incredibly privileged in getting to lead, support, and grow in faith with you. And we wish you every ounce of God's wonder and blessing, goodness and faithfulness, and comfort and joy this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas...

From our hearts to yours!