

## THE SALVATION ARMY HADLEIGH TEMPLE SONGSTERS DEVOTIONS

Pause for Thought Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020

### ADVENT

Thank you Marise for your contribution last week.

As we now turn our thoughts to this Christmas time, it will be so different to our usual arrangements. Certainly, for the musical sections much less onerous than normal no doubt a feeling a sense of loss. We are usually very busy in so many ways, juggling our time to fit everything in. The ban on singing indoors at this time and bringing us all together singing carols and sharing with others the joys, memories the real message of Love that Christmas.

I know we all have our favourite carols and readings, we can still share them by listening to music now available in so many ways, I find having Christmas music in the background uplifting and joyous, the sound of a Salvation Army Band playing carols means so much to the community around us evoking memories in many people from Christmas passed. The greatest joy of course we know the message is relevant in present times, especially as we have to reevaluate this year how we prepare for Christmas. Disappointment that we cannot meet family and friends, shopping and travelling require careful thought and 'Do not forget your mask!'

The Christmas message rings clear for us whatever our personal circumstances as we remind ourselves of that time in Bethlehem more than 2000years ago.

In Luke Ch.2 v.8-20. We read of the astonishment of the Shepherds on the hillside tending their flocks at night, the angel appeared giving good news for them to go to Bethlehem and find the baby born as the long-promised Christ. Suddenly the sky was filled with a choir of angels saying

'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests'. It must have been an awesome sight, and brings joy to me every year. The shepherds were not in the least disappointed when they reached the stable where Jesus lay.

May the retelling of this event bring the magnitude of the Wonder of Christmas.

We are reminded each year at this Advent time in the candles that represent this gift.

HOPE. God keeps his promise in the birth of his Son for us all.

PEACE. Makes real in our hearts, no matter the circumstances.

JOY. We have a Saviour to forgive us our sins.

LOVE. We are not forgotten and can have his presence with us at all times.

PRAYER.

We are aware of many who are going through desperate times throughout the world. We bring to you the Salvationists and other Christians in Indonesia suffering great loss and danger, we cannot imagine how they are feeling but ask in our humble way be near and sustain them.

For us, we ask that at this Christmas time will be a time of reflection and renewal of your Love. Amen

Keep well, keep safe and ENJOY.

May God's Blessing be with you.

LOUISE