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MCSA ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS UNIT DECEMBER NEWSLETTER FOR 2020

#Seventeen

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Our Christmas picture was drawn by **Jaiho Patta, aged 11**: Jaiho says, 'This piece of art represents **how Jesus is born in 2020**. There are **three important roles**. First, the nurses and doctors. These are representing the angels at the time of the birth. On the left you see the Magi. They represent the people who find the vaccine cure. On the right, there are the vulnerable people. They represent the shepherds guarding their flocks at night. Finally, in the middle, Mary is giving birth to Jesus and Joseph accompanying her.'<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> We're very grateful to Jaiho for giving us permission to use his perceptive image from the Ecumenical All age worship resource [ROOTS | Worship and learning for the whole Church \(rootsontheweb.com\)](#) All lessons are based on the Lectionary readings for the year.

One of our Methodist local preachers in his audio- sermon during Advent, said we are living between advents. The first Advent is the coming of God in the Child Jesus and the second advent the Parousia or second coming of God, which only one part of the Godhead is aware of when it will happen. Between these advents WE are encouraged to be awake and alert to the continual coming of Christ in everyday life best expressed in Matthew 25: “When you have done this to least of these you do it to me.”

We are always waiting for the Prince of Peace. Advent is our focus on waiting for the first coming of Jesus as child a vulnerable baby, which teaches us many lessons about who God as the God of restraint to liberate and save humanity.

On our Holy Adventure during advent<sup>2</sup> *“We are waiting. Restlessly waiting. Yes, we are waiting to become our deepest selves, to live by love and not fear, to fulfill our dreams and God’s dream of Shalom, to live in a nation committed to liberty and justice for all. We need God’s creative transformation. In Advent, we are tempted to give up hope for transformation, on the one hand, or claim premature transformation on the other. In our hope for deliverance, we can chart the signs of the times, re-dating them with every mistaken calculation, while waiting for God to solve our problems and delighting in the fact that the “bad news is the good news” and a sign that Jesus will come soon. We can live in expectation of God tearing open the heavens and performing awesome deeds of transformation to liberate us from life’s ambiguities, while we do nothing to solve earth’s problems”.*

**How good and pleasant it is  
when God’s people live together in unity!**

<sup>2</sup> It is like precious oil poured on the head,  
running down on the beard,  
running down on Aaron’s beard,  
down on the collar of his robe.

<sup>3</sup> It is as if the dew of Hermon  
were falling on Mount Zion.  
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,  
even life for evermore.

*May you and yours have a blessed, safe and peace-filled Christmas and New  
Year*

**Rev Mike Vorster  
Director of Ecumenical Affairs Unit  
Methodist Church of Southern Africa**

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<sup>2</sup> The Adventurous Lectionary – for Advent period until Christmas. Prepared by Rev Eppersley based in the USA.