

# WEEKLY SERMON

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## Who can be against us, when God is with us?

Luke 2. 15-21

As we step into another year, we can but reflect on 2020 and think about the negatives and positives of that year gone.

With regards to the negative, we saw a killer virus cause a worldwide pandemic taking away life after life. Brexit was still going on, to the detriment of many and to hug one's family or friend was a negative too!

On a positive note, we came to celebrate the NHS and care workers; we came together as a community more and we kept going to the point where a vaccine was discovered, heralded a new dawn.

But the ultimate thing to remember is God was amongst us through all of it. He never waned, stressed, gave up or turned His back on what the world was going through.

We were reminded of this on Christmas Day with the birth of Jesus - the Emmanuel - God with us.

Our steadfast Jesus, born to ease the pain we suffer, draw out the sins from our beings and place eternal life within us through His coming as the perfect gift to die and rise again.

As we step into this New Year now, we might leave all of 2020 behind us, but one thing we are sure to take with us from one year into the next is Jesus, the Son of God, the Saviour of our World and the conqueror over sin and death.

We stand firm and ponder, as Mary did, on what He was to bring to the world and did.

We embrace what we have been told about Jesus as Mary did and we pass on the Word as the Shepherds did, that we are called to do; spread the Good News.

This way of thinking, of living and being is very much lived and breathed by those families affected and infected by HIV/AIDS in Bloemfontein, South Africa. They have seen their prayers answered by God as the Blackburn Diocese Mosamaria Trust Fund continues to raise money through fund raising ventures to cater for their spiritual, medical, educational, clothing and nutritional needs.

They praise God each day and give thanks for 2021 as we are, still here to praise the God with us as He continues to see us through another God given year as it unfolds.

For as we recall, who can be against us when God is for us. Amen

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HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES