

Hi everyone,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas! I know things have been far from traditional this year but hopefully, this has allowed us all to reflect on what this holiday really should mean:

Cherishing family and loved ones, near and far, in the most close and innovative ways we can

Seeing the less fortunate and what we can do to help. Every kind gesture no matter how small will always be meaningful.

Thanking all our health care workers for the unbelievable dedication and commitment they have shown under the tremendous pressure of this pandemic.

Recognizing how important our local businesses are to our community and the sacrifices that have been made. We need to really support them going forward and thank them for being creative around safely providing the services they can.

Acknowledging every single person that continues to get up in the morning and go to work from teachers to mine workers. Every single person who has found innovative ways to create or participate in events that means so much too so many. The virtual Christmas Concerts, the Creative Santa Parades and the Virtual Church services.

That's those people that are so often taken for granted. The men and women, keeping the city running, keeping our schools operating, keeping our streets safe and always being available in an emergency be it health or fire.

When you step back and look at how so many have given and continue to give so much it becomes very easy for me and I believe all of you to give thanks this Christmas.

Our traditional large gatherings and feasts of years prior are going to be delayed till next Christmas but just know that the actions you have taken this year by staying physically distanced are helping to keep yourselves, your loved ones and your community safe and this mean so much to everyone.

Please remember that all of this is only temporary. There is a vaccine available. It may take some time before it reaches all of us but just keep reminding yourselves that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

I'm hopeful that by this time next year we can return to a Christmas much like years prior.

From me, Mayor Cal Huntley, your Council and the City please have a very Merry and Safe Christmas and look forward to a Happier New Year!