



*An Advent  
wrapped in Love.*

***Wrapped in Love***

*By Patti Blakeslee*

Gifts sometimes come to us at unexpected times or in forms that we may not quickly recognize. Such a gift came to me earlier this year some weeks after the Christmas Season had passed. It was both unexpected and delivered quietly without advance notice. Memory of this gift still warms my heart many months after it was given.

COVID-19 was surging in early Spring. Vaccines had become newly available and I was eagerly awaiting my turn to receive my shots. It was an anxious time. One night my son, a busy and 'stretched to the max' emergency medicine doctor dealing with COVID-19 challenges every day, took time to call me. He wanted to "check in" with mom and to learn where I was in the vaccination schedule. Exactly when will you achieve "fully vaccinated" status, he asked. I told him the date and thanked him for asking. He said he wanted to visit soon in San Diego. Of

course, that was good news for me, since at that point I had not seen him or the rest of the family in 1 1/2 years! Nothing more was said and no definite plans were made, so I put aside any further thoughts about the idea.

Imagine my surprise a few weeks later, when my son arrived unannounced and in-person at my front door - exactly on the day I officially achieved my "fully vaccinated" status! He had carefully planned his visit and coordinated his flight schedule from Salt Lake City to San Diego to coincide with this special moment in time for me. What a gift! I truly felt wrapped in love! I felt especially appreciative of my son's effort to reach out with what I would call, a "love action". After all, I knew his plate was more than full and that the demands of his profession weighed heavily on him. And so it is that this surprise visit remains in my memory as one of the most meaningful gifts I have ever received — and it wasn't even Christmas time!

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as stewards of God's varied grace." I Peter 4:10*

***Lord: may the memory of receiving a meaningful gift inspire me to reach out to wrap others in love.***

