



*An Advent
wrapped in Love.*

Christmas in Manchester
By Craig Petty



My favorite recent Christmas memory was from 2018 when I got to spend the holiday with my Mom, my husband Ian and his family in Manchester, England. As an only child I come from a small family, so I always enjoy spending time with Ian's medium-sized but still much larger family. We didn't accomplish much: it was a Christmas of silly hats, jokes, great food cooked by my father-in-law, spending time with each other and getting closer as a family. It was topped off with a snowstorm on Christmas day to make it the idyllic family Christmas. None of us realized at the time how long it would be until we would all be able to get together again.

One of the gifts that we have all learned to appreciate more over the past couple of years is the gift of family. Even though life is slowly getting back to normal, as with many

families, we have had to make difficult decisions about our Christmas plans again this year and unfortunately all of us getting together will have to wait again.

My hope for Christmas this year, is that we can still share the gift of love with our families no matter what the physical distance between us. I also hope that we can rest in the hope that God-willing we will all be physical together with those we love again soon.

Prayer: God we thank you for the gift of family. We pray for those family members that we can't be physically with this year because they are far away or because they are no longer with us. We ask that we can be together soon and in the meantime share in your love by sharing in the love that we have for one another this Christmas. Amen

Colossians 3:14 "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."

