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As we come to the end of a very difficult 2020, there's a lot of talk in our world about hope. Hope that the new vaccine will be safe, effective, and will enable us to put COVID-19 behind us and get us back to some kind of normal in 2021.

We all hope for that. But then there are the continuing unknowns about this pandemic. For example, when will this current surge of cases and hospitalizations end? And, can 20 to 30 million people be vaccinated each month? There's great hope, but it is hope that is plagued by uncertainty.

I contrast this hope with our hope—the Christian's hope.

Our hope isn't based on what's going on around us, it's based on our almighty and faithful God.

When God promises that something will happen, it will happen. And we can trust that promise. All of the promises of God in this life and in the life to come are realized in Jesus Christ.

Christmas is the celebration of hope, of God's promises fulfilled. As He promised, He sent His own Son, whose name is "Jesus, because He will save us from our sins."

On behalf of the staff of the Office of the General Assembly, I wish you a merry Christmas and safe Christmas too, that is inspired by the hope that is yours because of the Father's gift of His Son: our Savior and Lord.

God bless you!