

## This Gift

by Jules Christian

2020 has been a long, hard year. These past months have brought chaos, death, injustice, helplessness, weariness, ignorance, loss and fear and certainly have not felt like a gift. All across our globe, people are yearning for a new season and a new coming. And truly, now more than ever advent is a gift to our souls. Before we move into the newness and blessing of the gift that awaits us, we will see that despite the events of this year, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear, it has come with gifts. Some of you may be thinking, "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth", right about now, but if we are to truly receive the gift that awaits us, we will be able to find value in what we have lived through.



### **G is for gratitude!**

*I don't know about you, but this year I have become so much more grateful for what I have and what I have taken for granted. Gathering together, a hug from a friend, a business being open, being able to find*

*toilet paper; all of these and more have made me ever so grateful and ever so mindful.*

**How has 2020 made you more grateful?**

### **I is for Involved!**

*This year if nothing else, I believe the world has become more involved with what matters. We are checking on friends and family more, we are more motivated in the political process, we are speaking out and helping out in ways that we may not have made time for before this pandemic.*

**How has 2020 made you more involved?**

### **F is for Focus!**

*There is nothing like a trial or tragedy to make you draw closer to God. During this year, I have had to focus on God just to breathe, just to make it through another day, another setback, another loss. When we are able to focus on the strength that comes from above, even Covid, even political unrest, even the*

*loss of a life, is no match for God.*  
**How have you focused more on God?**

**T is for Today!**

*We are not promised tomorrow, but we are alive today, breathing today, free today. When we live in the present, instead of the mistakes of the past and the worries of the future, we truly have a gift.*

**How are you enjoying today and living in the present?**

No matter where you are in this moment and whether or not you have been able to find any gifts from this past year, Rejoice! Emmanuel, the greatest gift of all has come, and we will find rest for our weary souls!

**G is for God**

*The Divine, our Creator, the Holy One*

**I is for Incarnate**

*In the flesh, in human form*

**F is for Forever**

*Without end, always present*

**T is for True**

*Real, genuine, authentic*