

Worship

Watch this short clip from a film. Explain that it is set at a point in history, but the man is sitting in a time machine, about to journey to the future.

[The Time Machine \(2/8\) Movie CLIP - Going Forward \(2002\) HD - YouTube.](#)

We all know that 2020 wasn't what we hoped it would be. There were probably many times when we wished for a time machine that could leap forwards into the future to a time when things would be a bit more normal. Perhaps we still feel a bit like that!

- As you look ahead to 2021, what are you looking forward to?
- What are your hopes and dreams for the year ahead?

This time last year, when we were looking ahead to 2020, we had no idea how things would pan out! Many things that happened in 2020 weren't in any of our plans for that year. It's OK for us to feel sad about some of these things, and disappointed too.

However, we can also feel thankful and happy about some of the things that we experienced last year, perhaps some unexpected positives. An example might be that we engaged more with family members who lived further away by using Zoom, or we got to know our neighbours better.

We didn't know what 2020 would hold and, although we have hopes and dreams for 2021, perhaps we are more apprehensive about those dreams because of the surprises last year.

Christians believe that even though we can't see ahead to the future - we can't get in a time machine and jump ahead to see what's going on! - God is with us in every situation. Christians believe that God is bigger than time, so he holds us even in uncertain times.

The future may be uncertain, and there may be things that happen that we don't expect in the year ahead, but there will also be things to enjoy and celebrate together.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that you are with us in every circumstance or situation.

You know how different and unexpected the last few months have been.

As we look ahead to 2021, help us to remember that you are with us, and you hold the future in your hands.

Amen.

