

## Advent Week 4 His Loving Presence

### 聖誕降臨節系列 第四周 祂愛的同在

#### Announcements 報告事項

Merry Christmas. Welcome everyone. 聖誕快樂! 歡迎大家!

Online Christmas Eve service, will be available on B4church.org on Wed 12/23rd 6pm. Invite friends, family, people over zoom, grab a candle, candle-light service at your home. 聖誕線上聚會將在12月23日週三下午六點在教會網站B4church.org開放。

Look forward to welcoming you to in-person service in January 2021. Be on the look out for in-person service registration (opens every Monday morning on the week of service). 3 services each week, starting on 1/7/2021。在2021年一月我們將重新開始實體聚會。請你們留意註冊的信息。每週將有三場聚會（見下）。註冊將於每週一早上開放。

6:30pm Thursday evenings 週四晚6:30

9am Sunday mornings 週日上午9點

11am Sunday mornings 週日上午11點

Also start in January 2021, many Events, courses, groups: go to B4church.org。另外在2021年1月，教會將有各樣的活動，課程，小組。請關注教會網站 B4church.org 上的信息。

#### PRAYER: 禱告

RELEASE disappointment, frustrations, heartbreaks, broken dreams to God 釋放失望，挫折，心碎，失落的期待給神

RECEIVE joy, peace, love, presence, and ask for what you need specifically 領受喜樂，平愛，愛，和同在；來到神面前問你所需要的

Give thanks to God 感謝神

#### Advent Giving 降臨節奉獻

- As we've mentioned the past few weeks, every year in December we take an additional offering that we use to focus on needs that are beyond our normal scope of ministry. 每年在十二月的時候我們都有一個特別的奉獻，聚焦在那些超過教會平時事工的事項上。

- From helping homeless students in Beaverton to helping churches in Rwanda, to feeding families during the pandemic...these funds go directly to meet those needs and advance the gospel in practical ways. 從幫助比佛頓學區的無家可歸的學生們，到幫助在盧旺達的教會，到為疫情中有需要的家庭提供食物。這些奉獻會直接來滿足這些需要，用實際的方式來傳播福音。

- I want to encourage you to pray, and ask the Lord what he might have you give to this years advent giving. 我鼓勵你禱告，來問神他在今年的降靈節這個季節是否感動你在一切事工上做特別的奉獻。

- I know Cheri and I are having that conversation in our home. And I want to invite you to join us, and consider what you might be able to give, above and beyond your normal giving. 我知道我太太Cheri和我會在我們的家中討論和尋求。我也邀請你加入我們，來考慮在你平時的奉獻之上做特別的奉獻。
- You can text to give following the instructions on your screen, you can give online or mail in a check, or even drop one by the office. 奉獻方式： 短信，教會網站，寄支票，或者把支票送到教會。

## Message 信息

- Now, today is the fourth week in our four week advent series. And advent is all about recognizing that some of the greatest things we long for, in life, are actually found in Jesus. And during the celebration of his birth, we take time to lean into this truth. That joy, hope, peace, and love are universal human longings. And, that these longings are ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. 我們來到降靈節的第四週。降靈節是關於看到我們在生命中所最渴望的那些東西，其實在耶穌中找到。在這個慶祝耶穌的降生的季節，我們花時間來更深地進入這個真理：就是喜樂，盼望，平安，和愛是人類普遍的渴望，在耶穌中得到滿足。
- And that brings us to today' s Advent theme:本週的主題

## Love 愛

- This is one of the most compelling questions facing people today:  
“Where do I find real, true love?” “我在哪裡可以找到真正的，真實的愛？”
- But if you think about what drives people? If you think about what people think about when they are alone? If you think about what wounds people? If you think about what makes a person do something crazy? More often than not, it comes back to LOVE.但問到什麼是人的動力，當人們單獨的時候他們想什麼，或是人們所受的傷，或是什麼使人做出瘋狂的事情。我們常常都回到愛這個主題。
- See, we live in a culture that has rightly identified the desperate need of our hearts. We long for love. We compose songs, make movies, and write books - all about love.我們的文化確實知道我們內心最迫切的需要。我們渴望愛，我們為愛寫歌，拍電影，寫書
- We are desperate for it. To love, and be loved. It' s woven into our DNA我們迫切的需要愛和被愛。這些都在我們的DNA裡。
- The Beatles were on to something when they sang, “All you need is love.” 甲殼蟲樂隊唱到“你所需要的就是愛”。
- What if all we really needed was love? What if love was the key that opened the door to a meaningful life? 如果確實我們所需要的就是愛，如果愛打開生命意義的鑰匙，會怎麼樣呢？
- Now, maybe you stop and say, “Wait, Brad - that' s just culture. That' s not the Bible.” In the New International Version of the Bible uses the word LOVE, 538 times. That makes LOVE one of the most popular words and talked about subjects, in the Bible.也許你會說那是文化，不是聖經。但在NIV版聖經中“愛”被提到538次之多。這使得愛是聖經最常出現的詞和討論最多的一個主題
- In fact, there' s an entire book in the Old Testament dedicated to telling the story of love between a man and a woman. It' s so scandalous that Jewish young men weren' t allowed to read it until they reached adulthood.舊約中有一本書講述一個男人和一個女人之間愛的故事。這本書對愛的描述是如此直露，猶太的男孩在成年之前不能讀這本書。

- Not only that, the Bible uses six distinct words for Love. 不僅如此，聖經對與愛用了六個不同的詞。

In the Hebrew: 希伯來語

- Ahava • Raya • And Dod.

In the Greek: 希臘語

- Agape • Phileo • Eros

• Not to mention several others that capture various nuances of love. 還有好些其他的詞來表述不同的愛細節差異。

• Oh, then we have the great commandment. That time Jesus was asked what the MOST IMPORTANT thing was. • And do you know what the primary verb was? • LOVE. Love God and Love People. 還有神的誡命中最大的。那個最重要的動詞就是愛。愛人和愛神。

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

約翰一書 4:7-8

7 親愛的弟兄阿，我們應當彼此相愛，因為愛是從神來的。凡有愛心的，都是由神而生，並且認識神。8 沒有愛心的，就不認識神，因為神就是愛。

• That' s pretty hard to miss. Love one another. And if you don' t love, you probably don' t know God. BECAUSE...God. IS. Love. 再清楚不過了。要彼此相愛。如果沒有愛心，你應該就不認識神。因為神就是愛。

• Love, is hardwired into our humanity. 愛深深的刻在人性中

• So what' s the problem? Why the complexity and confusion around love? There are two I' d like to address today. 那問題在哪呢？為什麼關於愛有這麼多的複雜和迷惑。今天要講到兩點。

• The first is personal, or individual. 一個是個人的

• The second is cultural. 一個是文化的。

• The individual side of this is touches an incredibly intimate part of our being. 個人的方面觸及到我們裡面非常隱私親密的部分

• It doesn' t take long for us to realize that love is dangerous. Children love recklessly. In our earliest days, we have no boundaries on our love. We give it, and we receive it, freely. But there' s a danger in offering our love. We can be wounded. We can be hurt. And scars can develop over those wounds, complicating all of it.

很快我們就意識到愛是危險的。孩子們的愛是一種不顧一切的愛，沒有邊界。自由地給，也自由地接受。但是給出愛是有危險的。我們可能會被傷害，受傷。傷口結疤，把事情變得複雜

• That' s why I find C.S. Lewis' words on love to be so powerful. 魯益師關於愛的非常有力的話語。

• In “The Four Loves” Lewis writes this:

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one,

not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.” — C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves

“去愛就是願意敞開我們的脆弱。不管你愛任何東西，你的心都會傷痛，甚至可能被破碎。如果您想確保它完好無損，那麼你必須不把它給任何人，甚至動物也包括在內。用興趣愛好和那些奢侈的享受把你的心仔細包裹起來；避免所有糾纏。將它安全地鎖在在自私的棺材裡。但是在那個安全，黑暗，死靜，和令人窒息的棺材裡你的心將改變。它不會被破壞；它將變得堅不可摧，孤立無援，和不可挽回。愛就是願意敞開我們的脆弱。”

—魯益師，《四種愛》

- A loveless loneliness is safe, but as the pandemic has revealed, that kind of isolation is the worst sort of torment for humans. Which is why, no matter how we' ve been wounded, there' s still a part of us that craves it.沒有愛的孤獨或者是安全的，但是那種孤獨是對人們最糟的一種折磨。

- 這是為什麼即便我們受傷，我們裡面的一個分仍渴望愛。

- Which brings us to the problem of culture. 這是我們來到關於文化的方面。

- Oscar Wilde once said, “The heart was made to be broken.” “心被造就是來被破碎的。”

— Oscar Wilde 奧斯卡 王爾德

- But wholeheartedly disagree with him. The heart was made to be whole and full of love.我完全不同意他的話。心被造是要在愛中完全。

- What' s broken is the way our world has told us to find love. The pursuit of a love is cluttered with cultural mythology and incomplete understanding of the human soul破碎的是世界告訴我們怎樣尋找愛對愛的追尋因為我們的文化對人的靈魂不完整的理解變得複雜。

- Society has painted a picture of love and romance whose greatest accomplishment is that it leaves most people disappointed or disenfranchised. Our cultural examples or teachings on love are fractured and shallow at best, and downright destructive at worst.社會對愛和浪漫的描述所成就的就是使大部分人失望或者是被剝奪了愛的能力。我們文化對愛的榜樣或是教導輕的來說是破碎和淺薄的，重一些說是具有破壞性的。

- They objectify other human beings.把別人當成物品

- They confuses lust for love.把慾望誤當成愛

- it' s driven by impulse and emotion. 被衝動和情緒驅使

- And worst of all, it' s not rooted in reality.最糟的是，它不是根植於現實。

- And in the end, we' ve placed enormous pressure on the people in our lives to fulfill wildly unrealistic expectations of love.最終，我們將極大的壓力加在我們生命中的那些人身上，希望他們符合或是實現我們對愛不切實際的期待。

- Comedian and public personality, Aziz Ansari wrote a book a few years ago, called Modern Romance. It was his take on the complexity of finding love in today' s day and age. But there is language laced within its pages that is incredibly revealing. Amidst his observations, you also discover his expectations.喜劇演員和公眾人物Aziz Ansari幾年前寫了一本書，叫做現代的浪漫。說到他對當今世代找尋愛的複雜性的看法。我在中學到很多對當今文化的觀察，非常有揭示性。在他的觀察中，你也可以發現他的期待。

- Listen to this one excerpt:節選

“The soul mate marriage is very different from the companionate marriage. It’s not about finding someone decent to start a family with. It’s about finding the perfect person whom you truly, deeply love. Someone you want to share the rest of your life with...But searching for a soul mate takes a long time and requires enormous emotional investment. The problem is that this search for the perfect person can generate a lot of stress.”

Aziz Ansari, Modern Romance

“靈魂伴侶的婚姻與伴侶婚姻有很大不同。靈魂伴侶的婚姻不是要找到一個好的人來一同建立家庭，而是要找到您真正深愛那個完美的人，一個您想要與他／她分享餘生的人。。。但是尋找一個靈魂伴侶需要很長時間，並且需要巨大的情感投入。問題在於，尋找那個完美的人會產生很大的壓力。”

-阿茲茲·安薩里 (Aziz Ansari) ，現代浪漫

- Do you hear what he’s saying? First, he referring to the ‘perfect person’ .你聽到了嗎? How would you like to be on the other end of THOSE expectations?首先，他說要尋找一個完美的人。你把自己想成在這個期待的另一端，你怎麼感覺呢 – 另一個人覺得你是完美的。

- This perfect person is supposed to also be you SOUL MATE.第二，這個完美的人要做你的靈魂伴侶。

- Now, there’s one thing that is right in this. Aziz IS identify the source of our longing. • It is our SOUL that longs for love.這裡有一點是對的.Aziz認為我們對愛渴望的來源確實是源於我們的靈魂。

- But our soul’s “mate” was never intended to be another mixed-up person.可是我們靈魂的“伴侶”不是一個合成的人就是為了我們來連結的。

- You don’t need another human to be complete.你不需要另一個人來使你完整

- That’s what our culture has said. You need someone else. A perfect someone else. You need a soul mate. But it’s simply. not. true.雖然我們的文化這樣告訴我們：你需要另一個人，一個完美的人，一個靈魂伴侶。但這不是真的。

- Well, It means that most of us are walking through life a bit wounded and longing for this thing called love.我們在我們的生命中，有些受傷，渴望這個叫做愛的東西。

- And Jesus knows this. 耶穌知道。

- In a world that longs to fill this gaping vacancy of love in our hearts, we look can see something in the coming of Christ that seeks to fill that void.在基督的到來中我們開始看見祂要來填補那個空缺。

- This is the power of the advent season.這就是降靈節的能力

- It’s that reminder, that moment of, “Oh yeah, that’s right.” 我們談到平安，盼望，喜樂，和愛，這一切都提醒我們“哦，對的，耶穌的到來就是要滿足我們心裡的空缺”

- When you look at the birth of Jesus through the lens of love, it all makes sense.當我們通過愛的角度來看耶穌的誕生，一切就都清楚了。

- Think for a moment about your expectations of true love, and then consider that in Jesus we have all of the beautiful dimensions of love personified in him. 如果我們想想自己對真愛的期待，然後思想耶穌，是不是愛的不同的層面和維度都在耶穌裡呈現出來。
- Think about Presence, for example. 比如說同在
- Love craves presence. • It thrives on proximity. Some people would say their primary love language is time. Presence. 愛是如此渴想同在。我們接近的時候愛就得以滋養。有的人會說他們最主要的愛的語言是時間和同在。
- Story: The Jet Ski guy 摩托艇小伙的故事。
- But love, is always connected to presence. 愛總是和同在聯繫在一起。
- And if there' s one thing God makes clear through Jesus, is that we can have A Present Love. 神在耶穌中很清楚地對我們說，我們可以有一個同在的愛。
- Jesus, the Incarnate God, is present on the scene. That' s the whole point. He enters the human story. • He joins us in our journey. 耶穌，化為肉身的神，與我們同在。這就是整個故事的意義。他進入人類的故事。他進入我們的旅程。
- He replaces the Temple as the point of contact between the Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of the earth. 耶穌取代聖殿成為神的國和地上的國的連接點。
- After Jesus God would no longer be considered a geographically-specific, and ethnically exclusive God. 在耶穌之後，神不再是某個地理上或某個是民族的神。
- We now have God, with us. 現在我們有神與我們同在
- We have God, in the flesh. 我們有神化為肉身。
- We so easily forget the super-natural realities that are a part of the Jesus way. But Jesus himself said, “I will be with you always.” 很容易忘記這個超自然的現實是我們跟隨耶穌的一部分。但耶穌對我們說：“我與你們在一起直到永永遠遠”
- And in John 14, he tells his disciples he will send his Spirit to be alongside of us, and to be our comfort-er. 約翰福音14章，耶穌告訴門徒他將把祂的靈賜給我們，做我們的保羅師。
- It' s all about presence. 這一切都關乎同在。
- Christian history is filled with moments when Jesus has met people in their solitude. 基督教的立時充滿了這樣的時候，耶穌與人們在他們的獨處中相遇。
- It' s a present love. 這是一個充滿同在的愛
- It' s also A Desperate Love. We don' t think of God as desperate, not in the sense that he is flustered, or doesn' t know what to do, and lacks resources. But when someone is hopelessly, deeply in love, one is also desperate to be with, to connect with, the object of one' s affections. If you think the jet-ski riding Romeo was desperate, think about God from this perspective. 這是一個極迫切的愛。這不是說神絕望，祂慌張，不知道該怎麼做，或是缺乏資源能力。當一個人是如此深深的在愛中，這個人就會如此渴望跟他所愛的人連結，在一起。如果我們覺得那個請摩托艇的小伙子因著愛在極渴望極需要之中，我們可以從那個愛的角度來想想神。

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

## 約翰福音 3:16-17

16 「神愛世人，甚至將他的獨生子賜給他們，叫一切信他的，不至滅亡，反得永生。

17 因為神差他的兒子降世，不是要定世人的罪（或作：審判世人；下同），乃是要叫世人因他得救。

- That was an unreserved, selfless act, designed to solicit the strongest response of love possible. 那是一個毫無保留的，無私的行動，為著要得到我們對愛最強烈的回應。

- Just how far was God willing to go to love you and be loved in return? I think we can see it pretty clearly when we look at the cross. But even at the birth of Jesus, we are faced with his sacrificial love. 神為了讓我們知道祂有多愛我們，祂願意做到怎樣的地步？我們看看十字架就清楚了。但即便在耶穌的誕生，我們也看到神的犧牲的愛。

- Paul, writing to the church at Philippi was unpacking how followers of Jesus should live toward each other, in love. But in the process, he brings something to light that reveals the nature of what took place. 保羅在給腓立比教會寫信時講述到耶穌的跟隨者應該怎樣在愛中對待彼此。在講述的過程中他也闡明了耶穌降生的實質。

## Philippians 2:5-8

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

## 腓立比書 2:5-8

5 你們當以基督耶穌的心為心：

6 他本有神的形像，不以自己與神同等為強奪的；

7 反倒虛己，取了奴僕的形像，成為人的樣式；

8 既有人的樣子，就自己卑微，存心順服，以至於死，且死在十字架上。

- He made himself nothing. 耶穌虛己。

- He traveled an unimaginable distance, relationally, to do so. He risked everything to be with us, holding nothing back. 耶穌行過這不可想像的在關係上的距離。他付上一切，毫無保留，為了要與我們在一起。

- His love is a desperate, risky love. And it's a Selfless Love. 他的愛是一個極渴望的，極危險的愛。一個無私的愛。

- As he said, he did not come to demand the prerogatives of his divinity. He came to take neither riches, power, or worship. 而且耶穌說，他來不是要得到他作為神的應有的權利。不是為了得到富貴，能力，或是敬拜。

- He demanded nothing as he “made himself nothing.” 他沒有任何要求，反而虛己。

- Instead, he traveled like a vagabond, having no place to call his own.他在世間像一個流浪者，沒有可以枕頭落腳的地方。
- When tired, he still healed. 疲憊中他仍然醫治人。
- When thirsty, he still taught. 口渴中他仍然教導人。
- And when murdered, he still prayed for his tormentors. 當被殺時，他仍然為折磨他的人禱告。
- If Love puts that kind of pressure on human relationships, human relationships collapse. But if love puts that pressure on Jesus, his love expands.如果我們對愛的期待施加這樣的壓力在人的關係當中，人的關係就坍塌了。可是如果我們對愛的渴望施加這樣的壓力在耶穌身上，他的愛就擴展開來。他的愛經得住這樣的壓力。

“Jesus is like a godly tsunami of love, pushing back all resistance in his advance. It is not the projection of power that pulses the charge. It is the magnetic attraction of a completely selfless love.”

- Pastor Steve Mitchell

耶穌就像愛的海嘯一樣，在前進的道路上將一切阻力都推倒了。這海嘯的力量不是來自於能力的投射，而是來自於一個完全無私的愛的磁性吸引力。”

- Steve Michell牧師

- So, let’ s go back to Jet-Ski guy. Why do we find that story so attractive? Because it’ s hardwired into the human heart that real love, goes the distance.回到這個摩托艇小伙子身上。我們為什麼覺得這個故事如此吸引人。因為在人的心中深深的這樣相信，真愛是願意跨越一切距離的。
- And no one has gone the distance that Jesus has gone.沒有人像耶穌為我們這樣跨越一切的距離。
- As we approach Christmas, we approach the answer to the deepest longings of our hearts. We’ ve longed for love. We’ ve looked for it in all the wrong places. But through Jesus, love found a way to find us.當我們與聖誕越來越近，我們與我們心中最深的渴望也越近。我們渴望愛。我們在每一個錯誤的地方尋找愛。但在耶穌裡，愛找到一條路找到我們
- I don’ t where you are today as you watch this. I don;t know if you’ re wounded. I don’ t know if you’ re lonely. I don’ t know if you’ re love starved in the middle of the crowd.你在什麼樣的光景中，是否受傷，孤獨，或是雖然在人群當中卻對愛如此渴望。
- But what I do know is this: When you Say yes to Jesus.You say yes to the love of God. And that is what your heart wants most.

但我知道，當你對耶穌說是，你就對神的愛說是。而這是你的心最想要的。

Benediction 祝禱

- May you be men and women who hear your hearts cry for love.願你成為這樣的人，看到且承認在你心中最深的對愛和被愛的渴望。
- And may you find that cry answered, in the cry of this child, born in bethlehem.在這個同樣的時刻，願你看到你對愛的呼求得到回應，在這個在馬槽誕生的嬰孩的身上。
- May you know, that YOU, are, loved.願你知道這創造宇宙的神愛你，深深的愛你。奉耶穌的名禱告。阿門。