

People of Light
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Advent interrupts our systems. 基督降臨動搖了我們的系統。

Our world is made up of systems. 我們的世界是由系統組成的。

--> Democracy. It's an experimental system and it certainly has flaws and fragilities, but it's a system and without it, the country becomes something much, much different. 民主。這是一個實驗系統，它可能有缺陷和脆弱性，但是這是一個系統，沒有它，這個國家會變得越來越不同。

--> Pat who came to our house for Christmas one year. Lived in her car, was recently clean and sober. "Your life must be so much better now." Nope, she said, it's lonely. I had a big group of friends I really enjoyed, but our friendships were built around a commitment to substance abuse. Without that, the whole ecosystem of their friendships fell apart. It was a broken system, but also a powerful one. 有一年帕特來我們家過聖誕節。她住在車裡，最近戒除了毒癮和酒精。“你現在的生活一定好多了。”不，她說，這是孤獨的。我以前有一群喜歡的朋友，但是我們的友誼建立在對藥物濫用的承諾之上。沒有這些，這個友誼的生態系統就會分崩離析。這是一個破碎的系統，但是也是一個強大的系統。

--> Family systems. If you pay attention, holiday gatherings will often reveal some systems in place that may be really unhealthy but are silently held as sacred. (We Don't Talk About Bruno - system.) 家庭系統。如果你注意的話，節日聚會通常會揭示一個可能真的不健康但是默認是神聖(不可動搖)的系統。(我們不是在談論布魯諾 - 系統)

Two truths about the systems we depend on in life: 1) They're largely invisible 2) They don't have to be good to be addictive. Some of them are fragile, some of them are truly destructive, but they are embedded - and so they stand. 我們在生活中所依賴的系統的兩個事實: 1) 他們在很大程度上看不見, 2) 他們並不一定很好。有些很脆弱, 有些具有破壞性, 但是他們根生蒂固 - 因此他們屹立不倒。

Of all the things that Jesus came to do in our world, near the top of the list is: disrupt our previously held systems. Shake loose our allegiance to things that aren't working, to louder but less worthy gods, in order to show us the way to true life. 耶穌來到我們的世界所做的所有

事情，排在首位的是：動搖我們以前所持有的系統。動搖我們對無效事情的忠誠度，以及大聲卻毫無價值的神靈的忠誠度，以便向我們展示通往真正生活的道路。

While we celebrate Advent in really soft tones or beautiful hues... holy Jesus, meek and mild, Sweet little Jesus boy, peace on earth - Advent in fact, represents a violent disruptions of the systems that we may not love, but have decided to trust. “Jesus is the reason for the season?” **Humanity’s constant reliance on the systems and sin that will eventually destroy us is the reason for the season.** 當我們用柔軟的語調或者美麗的色調慶祝耶穌降臨時...聖潔的耶穌，溫柔溫和，可愛的小耶穌，世上的和平 - 耶穌降臨，事實上代表這個我們可能不喜歡，但卻信任的系統被嚴重震動。“耶穌是這個節日的原因嗎？”人類對這個系統的依賴以及罪終將毀滅我們是這個節日到來的原因。

As we’ve looked at how Jesus is the light of the world, we can identify a system that is upended by His coming. Isaiah prophesies it in Isaiah 9:2:當我們看到耶穌如何成為世界的光時，我們可以確定一個因他的到來而顛覆的世界。以賽亞在以賽亞書9:2中預言：

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. Isaiah 9:2 在黑暗中行走的百姓看見了大光，住在死蔭之地的人有光照耀他們。以賽亞書 9:2

And then Matthew quotes him...well, almost: 然後，馬太引用他的話，幾乎一樣：

The people sitting in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

Matthew 4:16

那坐在黑暗裡的百姓看見了大光；
坐在死蔭之地的人有光發現照著他們。馬太福音 4:16

Isaiah said the people walking in darkness would see a great light. Matthew chooses to change up one word - and he says “the people sitting in darkness” and that word means “stuck”. At least in Isaiah, they were somewhat mobile. They could come and go. But by the time Jesus arrives on the scene, after 400 years of spiritual silence, the people are well and truly stuck. (Ex. Little, scared of the dark, monster under the bed, needed my mom but too afraid to risk getting out of bed, certain the monster would grab my ankle. The dilemma: Afraid of the dark, help is across the hall, but the hall is the darkest of all. So...paralyzed.) This is the system in which humanity operates. The world is dark and hard to navigate. Darkness is weighty and scary and paralyzing. The deal we make with darkness is that we will adjust our plans and dreams and actions. We will stay put. We will never alter our traffic pattern. We stay paralyzed because that’s the system and it’s not visible to us, it just...is. And it’s powerful.

以賽亞說在黑暗中行走的百姓看見了大光。馬太選擇改變一個詞 - 他說“那坐在黑暗裡的百姓”，這

個詞的意思是“不動”。至少在以賽亞書中，他們是可以行動的。他們可以走來走去。但是當耶穌到來的這個時候，在經歷了400年的精神靜默後，人們已經完全不動了。（例如，小，害怕黑暗，床底下的怪物，需要媽媽，害怕從床上起來因為怪物會抓住我的腳踝。困境是：害怕黑暗，想穿過大廳，但是大廳最黑暗。所以...不動。）這就是人類運作的系統。這個世界是黑暗的，很難駕馭。黑暗是沉重、害怕和癱瘓的。我們和黑暗達成的協議是我們要調整我們的計畫、夢想和行動。我們會原地不動。我們不改變我們的交通方式。我們原地不動，因為那個系統，我們看不到它，它只是...它很強大。

But then...Jesus. He steps in and turns the lights on so that we can see how we were limited, limping, bumping into the furniture. Jesus breaks through 400 years of dark silence with a light so disruptive that all the smaller systems built by men are like scattering cockroaches. His new system is : LIGHT. Things done in darkness will no longer stay that way. Time-honored and deeply loved systems are revealed to be shambolic, in the government, in the religious establishment and in our own hearts. The Light bursts onto the world's stage and the darkness cannot overcome it, can't hide it, can't adjust it. 但是而後，是耶穌。他進入我們的生活，打開燈，照亮我們，我們就看到我們被限制，舉步維艱。耶穌打破了400年的黑暗沉寂，以光照亮我們，一切人所建立的系統在光照之下是那麼微不足道。他的新系統就是：光。在黑暗中所做的事全都分崩瓦解。那些經歷過時間考驗和曾被我們深愛的系統在光照下是混亂的，無論是政府的，還是宗教的，或是在我們心裡的。光照在世界的舞台上，黑暗無法勝過它，不能隱藏它，也不能改變它。

Jesus comes as the spotlight that wakes us up and shows us the way we're walking is leading us nowhere. Many are drawn to the light, but then he begins to call a few men and women to come up close to his light. He asks them to leave all the systems they've known and follow. Learn. Live. Become like Him in his life and death - but also to become like him in his light. This is a surprisingly recurring theme throughout the whole of scripture. 耶穌到來，好像手電筒叫醒我們，給我們看到我們所走的並沒有出路。許多人被光吸引，但他很快呼召一些人更加接近他的光。他讓他們離開所有他們已知和遵循的系統。學習，生活，變成像他一樣地生和死，但是也在他的光中變得像他。這在整部福音中成為不斷重複的主題。

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glory your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 你们是世上的光。城造在山上，是不能隐藏的。人点灯，不放在斗底下，是放在灯台上，就照亮一家的人。你们的光也当这样照在人前，叫他们看见你们的好行为，便将荣耀归给你们在天上的父。《馬太福音》5:14-16

This is a huge overhaul of our faulty system. We were making deals with darkness. We were incapacitated because of it. Now we not only have a light to follow - we also have light within.

The light of the world has shared that light with us, and this is a game changer. 這對於我們的充滿問題的系統是一個巨大的進步。我們曾和黑暗做交易。我們也因此變得沒有能力。現在我們不僅有光可以跟隨 - 同時有光在我們裡面。世界之光與我們有份，這是改變一切的。

In the original language, there is a definite article that makes this sentence read: **You are the VERY light of the world.** He says You - collectively - are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Not ought to be, could be or should be - but ARE right now. **Jesus blesses us here with his own high view of us.** He confers almost astonishing significance on poor, feeble humans. This is the power available to us when we're willing to trade in our systems - the power to be smaller versions of the Very Great and Very Beautiful Light of the World. 在最初用的語言裡，這句話裡有一個定義：你是世界的光。他說你 - 是地上的鹽和世界的光。不是應該是，也不是可能是，也許是，而是現在就是。耶穌在這裡給了我們他的最高評價。他對貧窮的卑微的人有格外的關懷。這是我們願意改變我們現在的系統的力量源泉 - 對於無比偉大和光明的世界的縮小版的力量。

Jesus gives his disciples here a gift second only to salvation: The gift of knowing they are of use to the world. (Ex. Ladies conference - biggest fear: purposelessness). 耶穌在這裡給他的門徒一個僅次於救恩的禮物：這個禮物是知道他們是對世界有用的人。（比如，在婦女大會 - 最大的恐懼：沒目的/使命）。

Listen to these beautiful words - here Isaiah sketches out a dream of what could be when the Light of the world moves into our neighborhood: 聽聽下面這些動人的話 - 這裡以賽亞列給出了一個夢的剪影，當世界的光進入我們的社區：

**“Arise, shine, for your light has come, 兴起发光，因为你的光已经来到，
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth 耶和華的榮耀發現照耀你。看哪，黑暗遮盖大地，
and thick darkness is over the peoples, 幽暗遮盖萬民，
but the Lord rises upon you 耶和華却要显现照耀你，
and his glory appears over you. Isaiah 60:1-2 他的榮耀要現在你身上。《以賽亞書》60:1-2**

Arise = to arise, stand, come on the scene...to be *valid*. (Opposite of *invalid*.) 興起 = 升起，站起，來到視線中...成為被認可的。（對比於不被認可的。）

Shine = **to be or become light.** 發光 = 成為光。

This is a good time to remind ourselves that we are paralyzed without light. We can't get momentum. We live beneath the weight of fear. We're hopelessly and eternally stuck. So the idea that Jesus delivered US from darkness to light and then turns to say, "Now, you're it!" Is breathtakingly beautiful. But with nearly every promise, we also see a problem. The problem is: While no one can snuff out the light that is illuminated in us at the point of salvation, apparently there are buckets out there that can cover it up. 現在是一個恰好的時間來提醒我們自己，沒有光我們是無法行動的。我們無法移動。我們生活中恐懼的重壓下。我們沒有希望，始終陷在那裡。所以耶穌把我們從黑暗中拯救出來就可以說，“現在，你可以了。”這是多麼美妙啊！不過就像所有的

承諾一樣，我們也看到一個問題。這個問題是：沒有人可以把救恩給我們的光芒顯現出來。好像有桶罩住了它。

Our light- so clearly given to us by Jesus - can live out in the open, or under a bucket. Cynicism, anger, hopelessness, shame. Listen to this from Paul - he calls out a bucket: (this is also , incidentally, the first verse I made my children memorize): 我們的光- 很清楚是耶穌給我們的 - 可以顯現在開放的環境裡，也可以被罩在桶下。憤世嫉俗，憤怒，沒有希望，羞恥。聽聽保羅是怎麼說的 - 他要我們在桶外：（這也恰巧是我讓我的孩子背誦的第一段經文）：

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life Philippians 2;14 凡所行的，都不要發怨言，起爭論，使你們無可指摘，誠實無偽，在這彎曲悖謬的世代，作神無瑕疵的兒。你們顯在這世代中，好像明光照耀。 - 《腓利比書》2：14-15

Do everything without grumbling or arguing...SO THAT you may shine like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. 凡所行的，都不要發怨言，起爭論...於是你們顯在這世代中，好像明光照耀。

Do you see the trade in systems here? Let go of your tendency to evaluate and criticize everything. Let go of your right to be right about everything. And exchange that for a firm hold on the word of LIFE. Life that believes all things are possible, life that believes grace changes everything and everyone. Real, abundant life, Paul says, produces an unquenchable light in us and through us. Arguing and complaining dulls the shine of that light and the world REALLY needs all the shine it can get. 你在這裡看到進行交換的系統了麼？除掉我們的論斷和批評一切事的本能，除掉你在一切事上都對的權利。換來的是持守生命的道。一個相信一切都有可能生命，一個相信恩典可以改變一切事和一切人的生命。真實的，豐盛的生命。保羅說，產生不能壓制的光，在我們裡面，並通過我們。發怨言，抱怨使光線暗淡，但這世界真的需要它所能得到的全部光芒。

Another thing that covers the light within us is distraction. Misplaced focus. A Failure to remember why we're here and what really matters. Missing the point. 另外一件阻擋光的事是分心。錯置的注意力。沒有記住我們為什麼在這兒，還有什麼是真正重要的。

Here's Paul again: 保羅繼續在這裡說：

For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” a made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 我們原不是傳自己，乃是傳基督耶穌為主，並且自己因耶穌作你們的僕人。那吩咐光從黑暗里照出來的神，已經照在我們心裡，叫我們得知神榮耀的光，顯在耶穌基督的面上。哥林多後書 4:5-6

—> We can so easily preach/live out the gospel of our own opinions, our own desires, our own agendas. We try to shape the gospel to fit other, faulty, fallen systems and in doing so, we cover up the true light of the world as it lives inside of us. I don't believe it stops living inside of us when we get it wrong, but I do believe it's difficult for our lights to truly shine when our focus is on trying to fix people or judge systems or reflect any thing other than the knowledge of God's glory as it is displayed in the face of Jesus. 我們很容易以我們自己的想法, 意願, 或計劃裡傳揚或者活出福音。我們試圖使福音變得適合別人, 適合失敗和敗壞的系統。在這樣做的時候, 我們遮住了世界的真光, 雖然它依然在我們裡面。我不相信在我們搞錯的時候它就不在我們心裡, 但是我相信在我們的注意力集中在怎樣糾正別人, 論斷系統以及一切不是神榮光的知識, 也就是显在耶穌基督的面上而來的知識時, 他的光的真正閃耀是很困難的。

It might be tempting to look at this truth as an eventuality. Some day, when I have the right education or the right job or have gotten the right breaks, I'll be able to truly shine a light in this world. When I get it together, when I stop making mistakes, when I am given some magnificent opportunity, watch me shine! (Ex. Trying to make Jesus look good in the light of an ALS diagnosis - He reminds me "I can be beautiful all by myself...you just live out the mercy you are receiving.") You already have what you need to be a light in the world. 我們有時會禁不住想也許這真理只適用於“以後”。有一天, 當我有了好的教育或是好的工作, 或是好的機會, 我也可以在這世界閃耀。當我把一切整好, 或者不再犯錯, 當我有了大好的機會, 等著看我閃耀吧。(舉例, 當我試圖讓耶穌在做ALS診斷的過程中是看起來更好時 - 他提醒我“我自己已經足夠好, 你只要把你接收到的恩典活出來就好。”))

And the world is very dark. We could look at a thousand different issues we're facing, but I just want to focus in on one. I read some research on the subject of loneliness this week. I discovered that staggering numbers of Americans are lonely. 36% of Americans reported "serious loneliness" - that is feeling lonely "almost all the time" in the prior four weeks. When researchers zoom in on young people aged 18-25, they found an alarming **61%** of them feel miserable levels of loneliness. The results of loneliness are depression, anxiety substance abuse, heart disease and domestic abuse. Research also shows us that loneliness can curdle into suspicion, contempt and aggression - which only serves to entrench the person deeper into isolation. Loneliness carries the same if not greater health risks than those associated with smoking and drinking. 這世界很黑暗。我們可以看到上千種我們正在面對的不同的問題, 但是我只要把注意力放在一件上。我這週讀了一些關於孤獨的研究。我發現美國人中感到孤獨的人的數字令人驚訝的高。36%的美國人說他們“非常孤獨” - 也就是說在過去的四週裡感覺幾乎所有的時候都很孤獨。當研究者聚焦在年紀在18-25歲的年輕人時, 他們發現高達危險的61%的年輕人的孤獨感到達痛苦的程度。孤獨的結果是抑鬱, 焦慮, 濫用藥物, 心臟疾病, 家庭暴力。研究告訴我們孤獨發展下去可以導致多疑, 藐視, 好鬥 - 而這些只能使人更加防範並導致更加孤單。孤獨是和吸煙和喝酒在健康上有同樣甚至更大的危害。

Clearly, the problem is pervasive and overwhelming. If we let ourselves, we could sink into the hopeless abyss of something so big and brutal and unsolvable. But here are a few more numbers from the research: 顯然, 這個問題是普遍的和壓倒性的。如果我們聽之任之, 我們可

能會陷入如此巨大、殘酷且無法解決的無望深淵。但這裡還有一些來自研究的數字：

-36% of the respondents who reported serious loneliness said no one in the past few weeks had taken more than just a few minutes to ask how they're doing in a way that made them feel the person genuinely cared. -36% 報告嚴重孤獨感的受訪者表示，在過去的幾周里，沒有人花超過幾分鐘的時間以一種讓他們感到對方真正關心的方式詢問他們過得如何。

-50% reported that they wished someone would ask them how they're doing in a genuine way. -50% 的人表示他們希望有人能以真誠的方式詢問他們的近況。

-19% reported that they had no one who cared about them outside their family and

-19% 的人表示除了家人之外沒有人關心他們，並且

-42% reported having fewer non-family members care about them as they would like. -42% 的人報告說，他們希望有更多的非家庭成員能夠關心他們。

With numbers like these, there's very high probability that you not only work with someone who is living in the darkness of loneliness, you may also live with someone who feels deeply alone. Every time you walk into a coffee shop, stop and realize that up to 60% of those people feel invisible and stuck. 60% of cars that make you angry on the road are being driven by people who feel chronically alone and unloved. We have a crisis of darkness in our world and it's not the public school system or the political system or the economy - it's a crisis caused by a failure to truly see and care for one another and to recognize that the light of the World shines through us. Not in our judgement or criticism or self righteousness, but in our willingness to see and care. I don't think Jesus asks us to solve the problem of loneliness, but He does ask us to shine into it. To bring a candle into the darkness and sit beside someone who feels stuck and paralyzed. who feels like an invalid and is longing to experience the validity that only Love can bring. We all have different stories and our stories always contain some sort of failure or fragility that can feel disqualifying. And we're busy and we feel ill equipped to take on another human soul. But If I could take your story in my hands and press one truth into it it would be this: **You are the light of the world. You are the VERY light of the world.** Every time you focus on the innate worth of another, you have uncovered the light. Every time you add money or meals or acceptance or companionship to someone's journey through a dark world, you show up with light. When we show up in this space and truly connect with another soul, we shine (BG: "I didn't know anyone, I was desperate for relationship so I just kept coming. I sat in the lobby and hoped someone would talk to me. I introduced myself. It was awkward and strange, but I just knew that my daughter and I needed to belong to a church." She's just one person who stumbled into our family, looking for hope and a home. *What if we became a community committed to at least coming here on Sundays ready to shine. Ready to really see the people around us. Ready to be the light to those who may be sitting in darkness?). 有了這樣的數字，您很有可能不僅與生活在孤獨黑暗中的人一起工作，而且還可能與感到深深孤獨的人一起生活。每次你走進一家咖啡店時，都會停下來並意識到其中高達 60% 的人感到被忽視和被困住了。在路上讓你生氣的汽車中有 60% 是由長期感到孤獨和不被愛的人駕駛的。我們的世界面臨著一場黑暗危機，這不是公立學校系統或政治系統或經濟——這是一場由於未能真正看到和關心彼此並認識到世界之光透過我們照耀而造成的危機。不是我們的判斷、批評或自以為是，而是我們願意看到和關心。我不認為耶穌要我們解決孤獨的問題，但他確實要我們願意讓光透過我們照進孤獨。將蠟燭帶入黑暗，坐在一個感到被困住和癱瘓的人旁邊。他感覺自己是邊緣人，渴望體驗只有愛才能帶來的歸屬感。我們都有不同的故事，我們的故事總是包含某種讓人覺得不合格的失敗或脆弱。我們很忙，我們覺得沒有能力接受另一個人的靈魂。但如果我能把你的故事放在我的手中，

並將一個真理印在其上，那就是：你是世界之光。你是世界的光。每當你專注於另一個人的內在價值時，你就發現了光。每次你為某人穿越黑暗世界的旅程提供金錢、膳食、接受或陪伴的幫助時，你都帶著光明出現。當我們出現在這個空間並真正與另一個靈魂聯繫時，我們會發光（BG：“我不認識任何人，我渴望建立關係，所以我一直來。我坐在大廳裡，希望有人能和我說話。我介紹了自己。這很尷尬和奇怪，但我只知道我和我的女兒需要屬於一個教堂。“她只是偶然進入我們家庭的一個人，尋找希望和家。*如果我們成為一個致力於至少在星期天來到這裡的社區準備好發光。準備好真正看到我們周圍的人。準備好成為那些可能坐在黑暗中的人的光？）。

It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start. Mother Teresa 愛遠方的人很容易。愛我們親近的人並不總是那麼容易。放棄一杯米飯來緩解遠方的飢餓，比減輕在我們自己家裡不被愛的人的孤獨和痛苦要容易得多。把愛帶進你的家，因為這是我們彼此相愛的起點。特蕾莎修女

Benediction: May you be men and women who are beautifully disrupted by the Light of the World. May you invite that light to inhabit every dark and paralyzed space in your soul. And may you walk out of these doors knowing that the broken world is waiting for the light that is you. 祝福：願你們成為被世界之光影響的人。願你邀請那光進入你靈魂中每一個黑暗和麻痺的空間。願你走出這些門，知道破碎的世界正在等待屬於你的光。