

**Message: Illumination of Advent**  
**Christmans Eve 2022**  
真光照耀 - 聖降臨光耀  
聖誕夜 2022

**Worship 敬拜**

天使歌唱在高天 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ly0ui0CEVPE>)

1. 天使歌唱在高天, 美妙歌聲遍平原  
四周山嶺發回聲, 響應天使歡樂音。
2. 牧人有何大喜悅, 快樂歌聲不休歇  
有何喜訊感心弦, 齊發歌聲美難言?
- 榮-----耀, 榮耀, 歸於至高真神!  
榮-----耀, 榮耀, 歸於至高真神!
3. 請君同往伯利恆, 天使所唱聖嬰生  
前來跪拜同聲唱, 基督救主新生

齊來崇拜 **O Come, All Ye Faithful** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKluz4caXNs>)  
詩集: 生命聖詩, 88 唱: 芝加哥中國基督徒合唱團 Chicago Chinese Christian Chorale

齊來, 忠信聖徒, 大家喜樂盈盈,  
齊來, 一齊來, 大家上伯利恆;  
來朝見聖嬰, 天使君王降生。

天使詩班歌唱, 頌聲喜樂洋洋,  
光明眾天軍, 都來高聲頌揚:  
「在至高之處, 榮耀歸與真神。」

我眾虔誠恭賀, 救主今日降生,  
榮耀, 眾榮耀, 全歸於主聖名;  
大哉父真道, 在肉身中顯明。  
副歌: 齊來崇拜我救主, 齊來崇拜我救主。  
齊來崇拜我救主, 耶穌基督。

Welcome - Brad 歡迎光臨 - 布拉德

- Merry Christmas Everybody, and Welcome. What a great night it is. 各位聖誕節快樂, 歡迎光臨。多麼美好的一個夜晚啊。
- Illustration: Nativity 插圖: 耶穌誕生
- There's this tradition in homes all around the world that this night reminds me of. 這個晚上讓我想起世界各地的家庭傳統。
- People every where, during this time of year, take this little barn like structure called a manger out of a box. 每年的這個時候, 各地的人們把這個像小倉房似的稱為馬槽的東西從盒子裡取出來。
- And then there are these figurines. 然後這些小雕像。
- Animals - sheep, and ox, maybe a cow or two. 動物 - 羊和公牛, 也許有一到兩頭牛。
- And then people. 然後是人。
- A few rough looking characters called shepherds. 幾個長相粗糙的牧羊人。
- A couple of well dressed men called magi. 幾個衣冠楚楚的博士。

- And then there's a man. 一個男人。
- And a woman, usually kneeling. 一個女人，通常是跪著的。
- And then, there's this baby. 然後，一個嬰兒。
- And will it all comes together, all of these characters are focused on, their attention is centered on, this baby. 他們在一起，所有的人的注意力都集中在這個嬰兒身上。

• Tonight reminds me of this scene. 今晚讓我想起這個場景。

• People every where are gathering in everything from a barn like structures to elaborate Cathedrals. 各地的人們聚集在一起，從馬槽到精緻的大教堂。

• They come from all walks of life. From different clothing to different skin color, each is unique. 他們來自各行各業。從不同服裝到不同膚色，每個人都是不同的。

• There is no common nation or language. 沒有共同的國家或語言。

• But the one thing they share is the reason they have gathered. 但是有一樣他們共享的就是他們聚集的原因，

• That giggling, bouncing, baby boy in a manger would, as it turns out, be worth the trip. 就是那個在馬槽咯咯笑、動來動去的小男嬰，值得大家跋涉。

• And, he would be worthy of their worship. 他值得我們的崇拜。

• Just as he is of ours. 就像他是我們的孩子一樣。

• Would you pray with me? 你願意和我一起禱告嗎？

Worship: (Last song is Oh come let us adore him) 敬拜：(最後一首歌是：哦，來吧，讓我們一起崇拜他)

For the City Moment of Prayer 為了城市的禱告時刻。

• Right now the ushers are going to take the offering. 現在，我們的領坐員將接受奉獻。

• And as they do, I want to say two things. 在他們做的時候，我想說兩件事情。

• First, if you're visiting us today, please, don't feel any need to give. 首先，如果你是今天加入我們，請不要覺得一定要奉獻。

• Secondly, I want to thank all of you have been able to give above and beyond and help fund our For the City Initiative. 其次，我要感謝所有人能夠超越平時的奉獻來資助“為了我們的城市”這個倡議。

• It has been so fun to see so many people join in this effort. 看到這麼多人加入這項活動真是太棒了。

## Offering 奉獻

### Message: 訊息

- Well, for those of you who didn't notice, Winter started this week, officially. 好吧，對於那些沒有注意到的人來說，本週進入冬季。

- Yeah. Solstice was December 21st. 是的，12月21號是冬至。

- And, it was pretty punctual with the date we chose for it to arrive. 它非常準時地在我們選的這個日期到來。

- But It's official. The ice and snow is ALLOWED to be here. 而且是官方的。冰雪天氣會到來。

- Because we are now in Winter. 因為我們現在在冬季。

- Illustration: Seasons 插圖：四季

- Seasons are interesting, aren't they? 四季很有趣，不是嗎？

- When we name them and identify their beginnings and endings, we aren't coming up with anything new. 當我們給它命名並定義他們的開始和結束時，我們不是在創造新的事物。

- We don't create the season. 我們並沒有創造四季。

- All we are really doing is defining, or talking about 'what is.' 我們所做的只是定義，或者談論‘是什麼’。

- Winter generally brings cold and rain and snow, and it usually hits around the last week in December. 冬季通常伴隨著寒冷和雨雪，它通常會在12月的最後一週到來。

- Spring never seems to always stretch a little too long. 春季似乎永遠也不會太長。

- Summer is never long enough. 夏季也不會太長。

- And Fall, well, it's just Fall. 秋季，嗯，只是秋季。

- Its' also the least creative name of all of the seasons. 它也是所有季節中最沒創意的名字。

- "Why'd you call it Fall?" " 為什麼你叫它秋季呢？"

- "Well, because that's when leaves "Fall" " 嗯，因為那是落葉的季節”。

- But the point is that we don't create the seasons. 但是重點是我們沒有創造四季。

- We simply define 'WHAT IS.' 我們只是簡單定義‘是什麼’。

- There are also seasons in the life of the church, seasons that are defined by 'what is'. 在教會的生活中也有季節，這些季節是由‘是什麼’定義的。

- And the season we are in is traditionally called Advent. 我們把現在的季節傳統上稱為聖降臨節。

- But here's what's interesting about this thing called advent. 但是關於聖降節有一些有趣的事情。

- The Word ADVENT literally means: "The coming" or "The Arrival" ADVENT -這個詞字面的意思：“來臨”或者“到來”。

- And here's why that's interesting. 這就是有趣的原因。

- A coming, or an arrival, well, that's usually not a lengthy event, right. 來臨，或者到來，嗯，通常不是很長，對吧。

- In fact, in most cases, arriving somewhere takes place in a matter of minutes. It happens in a blink. In a moment it's done. 實際上，在多數情況下，來臨有時候發生在幾分鐘內。發生在眨眼之間，一瞬間。
  - “We're here!” “我們在這裡！”
  - NOW, IF that arrival was a big deal, we might even remember the day. 現在，如果到來是一件重要的事情，我們甚至會記住這一天。
- 
- Like an anniversary. 就像一個紀念日。
  - Or a Birthday. 或者生日。
  - So why is a word that describes a brief moment in time used to define an entire season? 那麼，為什麼這個用來描述短暫時刻的詞被用來定義整個季節？
  - Perhaps it's because there's more to this arrival than the arrival itself也許因為這個來臨比到來本身更有意義。
  - See, this arrival is an answer to a question. 看，這個來臨是對一個問題的回答。
- 
- This arrival is the satisfaction of something deeper, something bigger.這種到來是對更深層次、更大事物的滿足。
  - And we don't simply remember the moment.我們不只是記住那一刻。
  - We remember the moments before the moment.我們記得前一刻。
  - Which has everything to do with ANTICIPATION.這與預期有關。
  - Anticipation is that sense you get when something good is about to happen.期待是好事即將發生時的感覺。
  - Anticipation is something you feel in your gut.期待是您的直覺。
  - The pressure builds.壓力增加。
  - And the waiting goes on, F O R E V E R. 等待還在繼續，那麼久。
  - Kind of like a child, waiting to open her gifts on Christmas morning. 有點像一個孩子，等著在聖誕節早上打開她的禮物。
  - Well, this ARRIVAL is something we've been ANTICIPATING for quite some time.好吧，這次的到來是我們期待已久的事情。
  - Because, what this arrival delivers is the answer to the deepest longings and desires of the human soul.因為，這次到來帶來的是對人的靈魂最深切的渴望和願望的回答。
  - And it wasn't just a group of people a few thousand years ago who were doing the waiting.不僅僅是幾千年前的一群人在等待。
  - It turns out that what this arrival announces is exactly what we've been waiting for.事實證明，這次到來所宣布的正是我們一直在等待的。
  - So Advent and Christmas are far more than simply marking a 2,000 year old event in history.所以聖降節和聖誕節不僅僅是紀念一個具有 2000 年歷史的事件歷史。
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- Each December we enter into a season of waiting and longing, together, so that we can be reminded of all that is fulfilled in THIS arrival.每年 12 月，我們都會一起進入一個等待和渴望的季節，這樣我們就可以提醒這次到來所完成的一切。

- Now, there are FOUR THEMES that traditionally correspond with each week of Advent. 現在，有四個主題傳統上與聖誕節的每個星期相對應。
- These four themes represent the four deepest longings or needs of the human heart.這四個主題代表了人心中四種最深切的渴望或需求。
- When we dig into our searching...when we dig into our desires and the efforts we go to trying to fulfill them...even when we unpack our personal brokenness...it always comes back to ONE. Of THESE. F O U R.當我們深入探索時.....當我們深入了解我們的渴望以及我們爭取實現它們的付出時.....即使當我們打開我們個人的破碎.....它總是回到這四種之一。
- Our heart's imagination tells us they must be there.我們內心的想像告訴我們它們一定在那裡。
- The longing inside of us is so palpable that there MUST be something real on the other end calling to us.我們內心的渴望是如此明顯，以至於一定有一些真實的東西在終點呼喚我們。
- But you won't find these under the tree on Christmas morning, and no one picked them up for you at a Black Friday Sale.但是聖誕節早上你不會在樹下找到這些，也沒有人在黑色星期五特賣會上為您買下它們。
- But that doesn't mean they can't be yours.但這並不意味著它們不能屬於你。
- In fact, THAT, is why we celebrate Advent.事實上，這就是我們慶祝聖誕節的原因。
- Because they CAN be yours.因為它們可以是你的。
- In the middle of our search Jesus enters, like a light, pointing the way.在我們尋找的過程中，耶穌進來了，就像一道光，指明了道路。
- He illuminates where we can find these four things.他闡明了我們可以在哪裡找到這四樣東西。
- Which is why, traditionally, these four themes and our new found ability to find them, are signified with the lighting of....這就是為什麼傳統上這四個主題和我們新發現的找到它們的能力是用這光錶示……
- ....a candle.....蠟燭。
- The first is...第一個是.....  
HOPE 盼望
- Illustration: "This is what I always wanted." 插圖：“這是我一直想要的。”
- Christmas was always fun at my house, growing up. 從小到大，聖誕節在我家總是很有趣。

- My parents would ask us for gift ideas, and my list was never given back to me for being too short. 我的父母會向我們徵求禮物創意，而我的清單從來沒有因為太短退還給我。
- Which meant that often times, what I was going to open on Christmas was also a mystery - which I liked. 這意味著很多時候，我在聖誕節打開的禮物也還是一個謎 - 也是我喜歡的。
- My mom made it even more of mystery by putting numbers instead of names on packages and including odd items that made things impossible to identify by shaking, weighing, or examining from the outside. 我媽媽用數字代替名字使包裹更加神秘，還包括奇怪的物品，根本無法通過從外部搖晃、稱重或審查來猜測。
- I always arrived on Christmas day completely clueless. 我總是在聖誕節那天完全不知所措。
- But I remember opening gifts year after year and either saying or thinking this: “This is what I ALWAYS wanted.” 但我記得年復一年地拆開禮物，不是說就是想：“這是我一直想要的。”
- I wasn’t aware of how insignificant my ‘always’ of seven or eight years was. 我不知道我這七八年的“一直”是多麼的微不足道。
- But what that represented was something in my heart that said, “Tomorrow is going to be better because of this.” 但那代表的是我心裡說的，“明天將是因為這個更好。”
- In a way, that that gift that’s there, beneath the tree, it hints to a better tomorrow, and is picture of what it means to HOPE. 在某種程度上，樹下的禮物預示著美好的明天，而且是代表者盼望這件事。
- Hope. 盼望
- It’s the sense, that something is coming. 是某種即將到來的感覺。
- Hope is the idea that things will be different tomorrow. 盼望是明天事情會有所不同的想法。
- When we talk about Hope, we’re talking about that feeling you have— however stifled, faint, or repressed— that this thing, this life and this world we live in, is headed somewhere, and that that somewhere is good. 當我們談論盼望時，我們談論的是你擁有的那種感覺——無論多麼微弱或壓抑——這件事，我們生活的這個生活和這個世界，正走向某個地方，那個地方很好。
- Hope is a drab and dreary situation where light busts through and drives out the meaningless of life. 盼望是光線穿破單調而沉悶的境地，驅散一切生命中的毫無意義。
- Hope is what we get when we discover a God who is not distant or detached or indifferent

to our pain or uninterested in our condition or uninvolved in our very real struggles in this world, but instead is present among us, to teach us, and help us, and suffer with us.盼望是當我們發現一位神，不是遙遠、超然或冷漠的對待我們的痛苦，或者對我們的狀況不感興趣，或不參與我們在這世界的真正掙扎，而是出現在我們中間，教導我們，幫助我們，和我們一起受苦時，我們心中的感受。

- Hope is what you find when you wake up to realize that this God is a God who is FOR US.盼望是當你醒來意識到這位神是幫助我們的神時的那種發現。

- That's why one NT writer said these words:這就是為什麼一位新約作家說這些話：

[Romans 8:31](#)

[羅馬書 8:31](#) 既是這樣，還有甚麼說的呢？神若幫助我們，誰能敵擋我們呢？！

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?那麼我們對這些事情要說什麼呢？如果神幫助我們，誰能抵擋我們呢？

- What we find in Jesus, is the hope that we long for.我們在耶穌裡找到的，是我們渴望的盼望。
- That is the first theme.這是第一個主題。

- The second experience we LONG for is:我們渴望的第二個體驗是：

PEACE 平安

- Illustration: Christmas as a Parent 作為父母的聖誕節

- Things changed when I had children...which might be the understatement of the Decade. 當我有孩子時，情況發生了變化.....這樣說可能是近幾十年最大的輕描淡寫。

- But things changed, and especially at Christmas.但事情發生了變化，尤其是在聖誕節。

- There's this moment in my house that is difficult to put into words. It comes after the presents have been opened, and the excitement has begun to fade.在我家裡，有一個難以用語言表達的時刻。它是在禮物已經打開，興奮開始消退。

- We all are usually in sweatpants or pajamas.我們通常都穿著運動褲或睡衣。

- There are piles of discarded paper and ribbon. 有成堆的包裝紙和絲帶。

- And while the anticipation has passed, what is left in its place is a sense that all is well in the world, at least in my world.當期待都被滿足了，油然而起的一種感覺是世界一切都好，至少我的世界是如此。

- Each year I sit, staring, smiling and basking in the peacefulness of that moment.每年我坐下，看著，笑著，沐浴在那個時刻的平安中。

- There's a calm. A stillness.有一種安靜。一種平靜。

- Peace is that deep sense that you get that everything is all right. 平安是你有一種深深的感覺——一切都好。
- Peace is what you feel, when all is well. 當一切都好的時候，你感受到平安。
- The yearning, the unsettledness, the worry, the anxiety, the fear about the future - in peace? 關於未來的渴望，不安，擔心，焦慮，恐懼 — 在平安中？
- They vanish. 它們都消失了。
- Isn't that the kind of peace we're all looking for? 那不是就是我們所尋求的平安？
- Little did we know that in this arrival we would find Peace. 我們不知道原來在這個的到來中我們會找到平安。
- Peace with God. Peace with others. Peace, with our own selves. 與神有平安。與人有平安。與自己也有平安。
- The birth of Jesus is an announcement of an opportunity that is available to you. 耶穌的降生是你有的這個機會的一個宣告。
- It's an opportunity to know your creator and to be at peace. 這是一個機會來認識你的創造者和得到平安。
- It's a way of living that delivers on its promises with others. 是一種能夠達成應許的生活的道路。
- It's an identity that allows us to be who we were meant to be. 是一個使我們能夠成為我們原本被造要成為的位分。
- Now, the peace we are offered may not be a peace that is free from tragedy, illness, bankruptcy, divorce, depression, or heartache. 然而，提供給我們的平安可能並不是沒有悲劇、疾病、破產、離婚、抑鬱或心痛。
- BUT, It is a peace rooted in the trust that THE LIFE Jesus gives us is deeper, wider, stronger, and more enduring than whatever our current circumstances are. 但是，這是一種平安，它植根於相信耶穌給我們的生命比我們眼前的境況更深、更廣、更強大、更持久。
- Because all we see is not all there is and the last word about us and our struggle has not yet been spoken. 因為我們所見並非全部，關於我們和我們的掙扎的現狀的最終結局還沒有定論。
- What we long for is real peace. 我們渴望真正的平安。
- And what we see is in this coming is God meeting real people in a real place at a real time



in history and drawing them forward, calling them to greater and greater shalom, wholeness and well-being. 我們在這次降臨中看到的神在歷史上在真實的時間在真實的地方與真實的人相遇，牽引他們前進，呼喚他們獲得越來越大的平安、完全，和幸福。

- It's why the angels announced: 這是為什麼天使宣告：

Luke 2:14

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is Pleased!"

路加福音 2:14

14 在至高之處榮耀歸與神！在地上平安歸與他所喜悅的人（有古卷作：喜悅歸與人）！

- Because in Jesus we find true peace. 因為在耶穌里我們得到真實的平安。

- And then...third...然後... 第三...

- ...there is this experience, this feeling, we LONG for called Joy. 有這樣一種體驗，一種感受，是我們所渴望的，叫做喜樂。

JOY 喜樂

- At Christmas we get together with family, and with friends. 在聖誕節我們於家人朋友聚會。

- And if I were to identify the key components of an ideal Christmas, at the top of the list would be a small, three letter word that describes something that has a power like few things in this world. 如果我要確定理想聖誕節的關鍵組成部分，會排在首位將是一個很小的三個字母的詞，用來描述一件世上極少有別的事物有這樣的力量。

- This word is why, when we hear the laughter of a baby we can't help but smile. 這個詞就是為什麼當我們聽到嬰兒的笑聲時，我們會情不自禁地微笑。

- This word, is why our most memorable times with family with friends are those when we recall throwing our heads back in laughter. 這個詞，就是為什麼我們與家人和朋友最難忘的時光是我們哈哈大笑的時候。

- I love Christmas, because at Christmas we can laugh with those we love, and we can smile 'till it hurts, and we might experience this pleasure, this deep sense of joy. 我喜歡聖誕節，因為在聖誕節我們可以和我們愛的人一起歡笑，我們可以笑"直到肚子痛為止"，我們可能會體驗到這種快樂，這種深深的喜悅。

- See, joy is greater than momentary happiness. 看，喜樂大於一時的快樂。

- True joy lasts longer than a laugh. 真正的喜樂比大笑更持久。

- Real joy is something that is felt deep beneath the surface.真正的喜樂是在表面下深處感受到的東西。

- Joy is contagious.喜樂是有感染性的。

- Joy has the power to drive out the cynicism of our day.喜樂有能力驅除我們這個時代的憤世嫉俗。

- And this joy? 而這喜樂？

- This joy doesn't come and go based on circumstances. 並不因為一時的境況而來去。

- Because this joy is based on, it's found in, Jesus.因為喜樂是基於耶穌，且在耶穌里被找到。

- At one point he was talking to his disciples and he's been teaching them all of these things, and then he says this...有一個時候他對門徒說話的時候，在教導了他們許多事情之後，他這樣說

John 15:11

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be Full.

約翰福音 15:11

11 這些事我已經對你們說了，是要叫我的喜樂存在你們心裡，並叫你們的喜樂可以滿足。

- Another time Jesus said this JOY would be the strength, the strong point, of people that follow him. 還有一次，耶穌說這種喜樂是他的跟隨者的力量。

- We live in a world that is on a never-ending, unsatisfying, search for happiness, when it's Joy that we're really looking for. 我們生活在一個永無止境、令人不滿意的世界，尋找幸福，當我們真正想要的其實是喜樂。

- And some how, mysterious as it may be, REAL JOY is found in Jesus.而這真正喜樂神秘的在耶穌里被找到。

- Which brings us to our fourth desire....這帶我們來到第四個渴望...

- .....We long for... …我們渴望…

LOVE 愛

- Illustration: Gift Exchange and Russian Nesting Dolls 故事：禮物交換和俄羅斯套娃

- I love the exchanging of gifts at Christmas.我喜歡在聖誕時的禮物交換

- I don't love that obligated kind of giving, where we're simply checking names off of a list, hoping we both spent the same amount on each other, so we can call it good, kind of giving.

我不喜歡那種有義務感的送禮物，就是我們只是完成一個任務，盼望我們在彼此身上花費差不多的金額，這樣我們就可以稱之為好，那樣的送禮物。

- I like the OTHER kind of giving. 我喜歡另一種的送禮物。

- The kind where you've thought about who that person is, and what they like, and you try to pick something they would pick for themselves. 你想過那個人是誰，他們喜歡什麼，然後您嘗試選擇他們會為自己選擇的東西。

- Because of that, even the most inexpensive, seemingly insignificant presents have always held meaning for me. 因為這樣，即使是最便宜、看似微不足道的禮物也有一直對我有意義。

- Years and years ago, one of my daughters - I think she was in kindergarten or 1st grade, she was determined to go shopping for her mom and I. 很多年前，我的一個女兒 - 我想她在幼兒園或一年級年級時，她決定為她媽媽和我去購物。

- So she saved her little bit of money and visited Santa's workshop. 於是她存了一點錢，參觀了聖誕老人的作坊。

- So she goes in...and 20 mins later she comes out with her gifts, all wrapped up and ready to go. 她進去了.....20 分鐘後她帶著她的禮物出來了，全部包裝好可以回家了。

- And then, on Christmas morning, when I opened her present, I found THIS: 然後，在聖誕日的早晨，當我打開她給我的禮物時，我看到這個：

Picture of Russian Nesting Doll Safety Pin 俄羅斯套娃的別針

- It's a very large safety pin - with a set of Russian Nesting Dolls on it. 這是一個很大的別針 - 整個俄羅斯套娃在上面。

- Because EVERY dad should have a set of Russian nesting dolls on a safety pin. 因為每一個爸爸都應該有這麼一個俄羅斯套娃的別針。

- The funny thing is - I still have it. 有意思的是 - 我到現在還留著它。

- It's moved to five different houses and from one coast to another. 它搬過五次家，從東岸到西岸。

- Why? 為什麼？

- Because that little girl, loved her dad SO much that she to saved HER money, and walked around that workshop, and picked it for me. And she was SO excited. 因為那個小女孩太愛她的爸爸，她用存得的錢，走遍那個作坊，為我挑選了它。她是那麼的高興。

- That MEANS something. 是值得紀念的。
- And why does it mean something? 為什麼有意義呢？
- Because love is expressed when we give. 因為當我們付出的時候也表達了愛。
- When we put another person ahead of ourselves. 當我們把別人放在我們的前頭。
- When sacrifice to make another person feel special. 當我們犧牲一些為讓他人感覺特殊。
- And that feeling you get when you open that gift and you realize they actually thought of You? 還有當你打開禮物，你明白他人真的想著你的那種感受？
- You know that feeling? 你是明白那種感覺的吧？
- That's what it feels like to be loved. 那就是被愛著的感覺。
- All of his have this deep longing to be loved, like that. 而神深深渴望那種被愛的感覺。
- We live in a culture that is obsessed with finding true love, yet the truest of loves is right in front of us. 我們當今時代總是沈迷於尋找真愛，豈不知最真的愛就在我們眼前。
- What is tragic is that for a staggering number of people in our world the message of Jesus has been buried under a massive pile of againsts. 可悲的是對世界大多數的人來說，耶穌的福音被大量的反駁的信息埋沒。
- Somewhere in all of the years of religious againstness— from boycotts and wars and judgments and sermons about how “God loves you if you’ll just . . .” and “God is for you as long as you . . .” and inquisitions and placards and crusades and terrible PR— for many people the beautiful, life-changing message of Jesus being for us has been lost.  
在經年的宗教反論調之中 - 從抵制，征戰，評判，和關於“如果你怎怎樣…神就會愛你”或是“只要你怎樣…神就會幫助你”的宣講，再到宗教裁判所、布告牌、十字军东征和糟糕的公共關係 - 对许多人来说，那美好，能改變生命的耶穌的福音已經丟失了。
- But, the story of Jesus' birth is the shocking, provocative, revolutionary, subversive, counterintuitive good news that in your moments of greatest despair, failure, sin, weakness, losing, failing, frustration, inability, helplessness, wandering, and falling short, God meets you there— right there— right exactly there— in that place, and announces, I am on your Side. 但是，耶穌诞生的故事是令人震驚的、挑戰性的、革命性的、顛覆性的，違反常理的福音，在你最絕望、失敗、罪惡、軟弱的時刻，失落、失敗、挫折、无能、无助、徘徊、功虧一簣，神在那遇見你 - 在那兒 - 就在那兒 - 在那個地方，祂宣告，我站在你這一边。
- It insists that God doesn't wait for us to get ourselves polished, shined, proper, and without blemish— God comes to us and meets us and blesses us while we are still in the middle of

the mess we created. 這強調出，神其實不會等我們把自己提高，光鮮亮眼，做事得體，沒有瑕疵 - 就在我們還在自己造成的一團糟中，神來到我們身邊，看見我們，祝福我們。

- Advent isn't about us getting it together so that we can have God's favor; 聖降臨不是我們聚在一起為了得到神的青睞。

- It is us finding God exactly in the moment of our greatest not-togetherness. 而是我們在最不能在一起的時候尋見神。

- This is about grace, and grace is a gift. 這是恩典，而恩典是禮物。

- You don't earn a gift; you simply receive it. 你不會掙得禮物，你只是接受它。

- You don't make it happen; you wake up to what has already happened. 不是你讓它發生的，而是你一睜眼事情就已經發生了。

- I say this because I believe Jesus comes to set us free and forgive us, to liberate us from shame and guilt and judgment and all that holds us back. 我這樣說是因為我相信耶穌來讓我們得自由，赦免我們，從愧疚，罪和評判那些阻擋我們的東西中。

- And the way that he does this liberating, empowering work in our lives is by ANNOUNCING WHO WE TRULY ARE and then reminding us of this over and over and over again. 而他在我們的生命中做解救，激發的方式就是‘宣告我們是誰’，然後一遍又一遍地提醒我們。

- And what is that statement? 他說什麼呢？

- YOU ARE LOVED. 你是被愛著的。

- Later in Jesus life he said these words to the men that were closest to him: 在耶穌稍後的一段日子他和與他最親近的人這樣說：

John 15:13

**Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**

約翰福音15:13 人為朋友捨命，人的愛心沒有比這個大的。

- That, was a statement of love. 那是，愛的宣言。

- And nothing changes us, nothing shapes us, nothing transforms us, like knowing that you are truly and deeply loved. 沒有比知道你被真真切切深深地愛著更能改變我們，塑造我們，轉變我們了。

- And THAT love is found in Jesus. 而那愛只在耶穌裡尋到。

- This, this season, is about unwrapping the gift that IS your life. 這樣，這個時節，是關於打開包裹著你生命的禮物。

- This is about your life becoming the realization, the living expression of all that Jesus came to deliver to us. 這季節是關於你的生命變成一種實現，是耶穌來拯救我們的所做的活生生的表達。
- So this Christmas, May you have a hope that says something coming, and whatever it is, it is good. 所以這個聖誕節，願你有一個盼望說，有事情發生，不論什麼，都是好的。
- May you experience a peace that is beyond understanding. 願你經歷超乎所思所想的平安。
- May your strength be a joy that transcends the events of any given day, or month, or season in life. 願你的力量成為喜樂，超乎你生命中任何一天，任何一月或季節的任何事。
- May you know a love, a love that is full of grace, unconditional and unwavering. 願你知道一種愛，一種充滿恩典，無條件的，堅定不移的愛。
- May you discover that all of these are found in the one whose birth we celebrate today. 願你發現以上所有都能在我們今天慶祝他的生日的這位之中尋見。
- You should have a candle... 你手裡應該已有一支蠟燭...
- This is such beautiful symbolism. 這是多麼美麗的象徵。
- 
- Our lives can be drab, dark and lifeless, but through Jesus, we have mysteriously been given the opportunity to receive Hope. Peace. Joy. And Love. Right here, right now. 我们的生活可能是单调、黑暗和死气沉沉的，但通过耶稣，我们神奇地有机会获得盼望，平安，喜樂，和爱。此时此刻。
- Would you join in singing and participating in the symbolic receiving and celebration of all that it is we have been longing for? 你可以一起誦唱並加入象徵意義的接受並慶祝我們一直期望的聖降臨嗎？

Candle lighting 燭光傳遞

Song: Silent night 歌曲：平安夜

B4 Tradition B4傳統

- There's a tradition here at B4 in how we extinguish these candles... 在B4教會我們熄滅蠟燭有一個傳統...
- If you returned to following Jesus, or began following him in the last year, would you raise your candle? 如果你是剛剛跟隨耶穌，或者開始跟隨他一年左右，請你舉起你的蠟燭嗎？
- If...last 5 years? 如果...五年左右？
- If...last 10 years? 如果...十年左右？
- If last 20 years? 如果...二十年左右？

- If it was the last 30? 如果是三十年左右？
- 40? 40 年？
- 50? 50 年？
- 60? 60 年？

Song: We wish you a Merry Christmas 歌曲：祝你聖誕快樂

Details: 詳情：

- No service tomorrow... 明日沒有敬拜聚會...
- And on New Years Day we have an online launch of our new series. 新年日我們是在線上開始我們的新的系列。
- No in person gathering that day. 新年日沒有實體敬拜聚會。
- We will be back together January 8th... 我們1/8/2023 開始第一次實體敬拜。