

Song of Salvation (Zechariah's Song)

救世之歌（撒加利亚之歌）

Luke 1:57-80, 20 Dec 2020 路加福音 1: 57-80, 2020 年 12 月 20 日

2020 has been a strange year but a good year for us to learn to be agile as a church. We had just experienced some easing of restriction. Still, due to another outbreak of Covid-19 in the Northern beaches, we are moving back to online gathering this morning.

2020 年是不寻常的一年，但一个很好的一年去让我们教会学会灵活应变。我们刚刚经历了一些限制的放松。不过，由于北岸再次爆发了 Covid-19，我们今天早上又重回到在线聚会。

Another good thing out of such a strange year would be fewer people would have lost their voice because we can not meet together. I remember when I was much younger, I would meet up with friends over the weekend to go to Karaoke to sing at the top of our voice and drink for the whole night till dawn. And on Monday, we are often very quiet because we have lost our voice, we would gradually get our voice back over the week, and we lost it again at the weekend. We are terrible at saving our voice, let alone saving ourselves.

然而在如此奇怪的一年里的另一件好事，便是很少有人会丧失了声音，因为我们不能聚在一起。我记得在我很年轻的时候，我会在周末和朋友见面，去卡拉 OK，飙高音喝酒，整整一夜，直到天亮。到了周一，我们常常会很安静，因为我们嗓子喊哑了，失去了声音，我们需要休整一个星期把我们的声音慢慢找回来，但是到了周末我们会再次失去它。与我们而言，保全我们的嗓音已是如此艰难，更不用说拯救自己了。

We can lose our voice out of silliness, and we can also lose it due to sickness. It can also happen to us due to some exceptional reason. In our passage today, we meet Zechariah, who lost his voice for about ten months, and it was because God had something special planned. Imagine what would daily life and relationship between Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, be like during the ten months of pregnancy. They have been married for a long time and would have gotten used to communicating with each other daily, and now they have to find a new way to communicate.

我们可以因为愚蠢而失去我们的声音，我们也可能因为疾病而失去声音。也可能是由于发生在身上的一些特殊原因。在今天的经文中，我们遇见的撒加利亚，他不能发声十个月，那是因为上帝有特别的计划。试想一下，在怀孕的十个月里，撒加利亚和他的妻子伊利莎白之间的日常生活和关系会怎样，他们结婚很久了，他们已经习惯了在日常生活里互相的基本交流，但现在他们必须找到一种新的沟通方式。

We see Zechariah at the point of him getting his voice back after he was unable to speak and silent for ten months. This time is also where God starts to speak to his people again, after being silent for more than 400 years, since he last spoke through a couple of the minor prophets including Malachi towards the end of the Old Testament. God broke His silent through the angel Gabriel, and he spoke to Zechariah and Mary to foretell the birth of two significant people, John the Baptist and Jesus.

我们看到撒加利亚在十个月不能说话和保持沉默之后恢复了他的声音。这个时刻也是上帝自从他最后一次通过几个小先知，包括旧约的尾章《玛拉基书》进行发言后，在沉默了 400 多年后再次和他的百姓说话。上帝打破了他的沉默，通过天使加百列与撒迦利亚和马利亚说话，预言两个重要的人的诞生，他们就是施洗约翰和耶稣。

We are at the point of significant changes in human history, the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus also means significant changes to whoever will believe in the message they bring and in Jesus. I want to give voice to three changes, to highlight them from today's passage; Change from **Fear to Anticipation**; Change from **Lost in Sin to Serving Him**; Change from **Darkness to Light**.

我们处于人类历史的重要变化点，施洗约翰和耶稣的诞生也意味着对于那些相信他们带来的信息和相信耶稣的人的重大变化。我为三个变化发声，并从今天的段落中突出这些变化；害怕到期待；迷失在罪中到为他服务；黑暗到光明

Fear to anticipation 害怕到期待

God broke his silence through the angel Gabriel to tell Zechariah that he and his wife will have a son while in their old age, and Zechariah wanted a sign as proof that it will happen as angel Gabriel said. So he was silent and not be able to speak until the prophecy is fulfilled. This questioning of God's power and instructions is typical of human all through the ages. 上帝通过天使加百列打破了沉默，告诉撒加利亚，他和他的妻子在他们的晚年将有一个儿子，而撒加利亚想要一个确证来证明天使加百列所说的会发生。因此，他成为了哑巴了，不能说话，直到预言实现，这种对神的力量和指示的质疑是人类从过去到现在的一个典型现象。

After God created the first couple of human, Adam & Eve, they were presented with a question "Did God really say,...?" They were tempted and encouraged to question what God has said. And they failed to uphold God's word and added in things that did not come from God's mouth, and ended up doing what God asked them not to do. The result was when they heard the sound of God. They hid from God; they were afraid and ashamed to see God. People become fearful of God because they know they have not obeyed God's words and have broken their relationship with God. And it is impossible for anyone to fully obey God from that point onwards, except Jesus, the Son of God.

在上帝创造了人类的第一对夫妻亚当和夏娃之后，他们被问了一个问题：「上帝真的说，…？」他们被诱惑和鼓励了之后，开始质疑上帝说的话。他们没有坚信神的话语，增加了一些并不是神所告知的东西，最终做了上帝禁止他们做的事。结果是当他们听到神的声音，他们躲起来了，他们害怕看到上帝，他们感到羞愧。人们之所以害怕上帝是因为他们知道他们没有服从神的话，并打破了他们与神的关系。从这刻开始，除了神的儿子，耶稣，任何人都不可能完全服从神。

The whole Bible is about how God worked on keeping his relationship with his people and how people keep turning their back on God. Instead of treasuring their relationship with God, they treasure other people or things more than their Creator, things such as traditions, reputations, fame and fortunes.

整个圣经是关于上帝如何努力保持他与百姓的关系，以及人们如何不断背弃上帝。相对于珍惜与神的关系，人们更珍惜别的人或事物，以致超过他们的造物主，这些事物包括习俗、名声、名望和财富。

Instead of carefully listen to and follow His Words, they put words into God's mouth and follow a god of their imagination. God is the one who speaks to his people who layout everything to his people to ensure they have a working relationship, but we are the one that keeps doing things our ways and breaking that relationship. We try to silent God, and we refused to listen.

他们没有仔细聆听和遵循上帝的话，而是把话语放进神的嘴里，跟随他们想象中的神。上帝是对他的百姓说话的，他给他的百姓安排了一切，以确保和百姓有一个良好的关系。但我们却是不断以我们的方式做事，并打破了这种关系。我们试图让上帝沉默，我们拒绝听他的话语。

God gave his people the silent treatment because they did not believe or obey God's words and prophecy. They even questioned God's love for them. They questioned in Malachi 1:2 after God said: "I have loved you." They asked, "How have you loved us?" They do not honour or respect God. The whole Bible shows us how people are going back and forth with God in their questioning, and that questioning still happens today.

因此上帝以沉默来对待给他的百姓，因为他们不相信或服从神的话语和预言。他们甚至质疑上帝对他们的爱。在《玛拉基书》1:2 神说：「我爱你们」，他们听到后问：「你是如何爱我们的？」他们不尊畏或尊重上帝，整本《圣经》向我们展示了我们在质疑中如何在背弃神和回归神的之间来回奔波，而这样的质疑一直至今天仍然在发生。

When we hold disrespect and disregard towards someone, it would not be easy to build any relationship, what is often left would be fear or contempt. Especially when we deliberately disobey someone or twisted others words and misrepresented them. Whatever relationship we think that we shared would be very shallow and superficial. How is your relationship with God and others?

当我们对某人保持不尊重和漠视时，建立任何关系都不容易，往往留下的是恐惧或蔑视，尤其是当我们故意不服从某人或扭曲别人的话并歪曲他们。无论我们认为我们共有的是什么关系，都会非常狭隘和肤浅的。你和上帝的关系以及和其他人的关系又是如何的呢？

Luke 1:6 told us that Zechariah and his wife had a good relationship with God, "*Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly.*" God had shown mercy towards Elizabeth and Zechariah by granting them a son at their old age. And they seem to have a good relationship with their neighbours and relatives. They came to share their joy in the birth of their son. However, verse 12, told us that even Zechariah, righteous in God's eyes, was gripped with fear when the angel appeared to him.

《路加福音》1: 6 告诉我们，撒加利亚和他的妻子与神有一个良好的关系，「他们两人在上帝面前都是义人，遵行主的一切诫命和条例，没有可指责的。」上帝对伊利莎白和撒加利亚表示怜悯，在他们的晚年给了他们一个儿子。他们似乎与邻居和亲戚关系很好。他们来分享他们儿子出生时的喜悦。然而，第12节告诉我们，即使是在上帝眼中正义的撒加利亚，当天使出现在他面前时，他还是一阵恐慌。

We should maintain a sense of fear and respect towards God, our Creator, a healthy kind of fear and respect will stop us from being contempt and becoming a fool. Proverbs 1:9 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instructions." A healthy kind of fear will help us to listen up with attention to details, it will not paralysis us but help us to do the right things. The right kind of fear is enabling is attentive.

我们应该对上帝，我们的造物主，保持恐惧和尊重，一种良性的恐惧和尊重将阻止我们蔑视和成为傻瓜。《箴言》1: 9说：「敬畏耶和华是知识的开端；愚妄人藐视智慧和训诲。」一种良性的恐惧有助于我们倾听细节，它不会使我们瘫痪，却可以帮助我们做正确的事。这种正确的恐惧会使人一心一意。

Zechariah was kept from speaking for ten months, but he makes sure Elizabeth got the instruction of the angel regarding what name to call their son. He makes sure history did not repeat itself, that his wife upheld God's instruction and did not add anything to it like Eve. As both Elizabeth and Zechariah confirmed their son's name is John, 撒加利亚哑了十个月，但他确保了伊利莎白能得到天使关于他们儿子名字的指示。他确保历史不会重演，确保他的妻子坚持神的指示，没有像夏娃那样增加任何东西。当伊利莎白和撒加利亚都证实他们儿子的名字是约翰。

64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 All the neighbours were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. 66 Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

64 撒迦利亚的口立刻开了，舌头也松了，就开始说话称颂上帝。65 周围居住的人都惧怕；这一切的事就传遍了犹太山区。66 凡听见的人都把这事放在心里，他们说：「这个孩子将来会怎么样呢？」因为有主的手与他同在。

Can you imagine what kind of anticipation Zechariah and Elizabeth had been through up till this point? They did not have ultrasound back then, even though they may be able to tell from different signs, such as the shape of the belly, whether the baby is a boy or a girl. Was it round for girls and pointy for boys, or terrible morning sickness at first three months for boys or the other way round? I have to check with my mum. They would not know their firstborn is a son or not until he was born.

你能想象撒加利亚和伊利莎白之前经历了什么样的期待吗？他们当时没有超声波，即使他们也许能够从不同的迹象，如腹部的形状，来得知婴儿是男孩还是女孩。圆

圆的是女孩和尖尖的是男孩，还是男孩在头三个月里早孕病严重或者相反？我得和我妈妈核实一下。他们是直到孩子出生才知道他们的第一个孩子是个儿子。

But when he was born, greater anticipation awaits them, and the neighbours and relatives share that anticipation. The anticipation of what is to come, what is this child is going to be. More so, the anticipation of what God will do with humanity through Jesus, our Lord.

但是当他出生时，更大的期待等待着他们，邻居和亲戚们也有着同样的期待。他们期待接下来发生的事，期待孩子会是怎样的人。更多的是，人们期待着上帝将会如何通过耶稣，我们的主，来对待大家。

We will move from fear and an uncertain relationship to great anticipation of what he will do with our life. The key to that change is our Lord Jesus. His arrival repairs our relationship with God. He places his Holy Spirit in those who believe in Him to help us to turn and obey the command of God so that we can change from fear to anticipation. We will also change from lost in sin to serve him.

我们将从恐惧和不确定的关系，转变为期待着神将如何用我们的生命去为他而活。这种变化的关键是我们的主耶稣。他的到来修复了我们与上帝的关系。他把他的圣灵放在那些相信他的人身上，帮助我们服从神的指挥，这样我们才能从恐惧转变为期待。我们也将从迷失在罪中改变为去为他服务。

Lost in sin to serve him 迷失在罪中到为他服务

At the birth of his son, when Zechariah holds firm to the instruction of God by naming him, John. God broke his ten months of silence, and Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and enabled to speak again. He praised and prophesied:

在他的儿子出生时，当撒加利亚坚持上帝的指示，给他起名叫约翰的时候，上帝打破了他的沉默，撒加利亚充满了圣灵，使他在十个月后再次发声。他赞扬和预言：

68 Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel because he has come to his people and redeemed them. 69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David 70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), 71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

68 「主—以色列的上帝是应当称颂的！因他眷顾他的百姓，为他们施行救赎，69 在他仆人戴维家中，为我们兴起了拯救的角，70 正如主借着古时候圣先知的口所说的，71 『他拯救我们脱离仇敌，脱离一切恨我们之人的手。

God is no longer silent. God has spoken, and he deserves all our praises because he has come to his people to redeem them. A horn can also mean a strong king, so he has raised a strong king to save his people from their enemies. The greatest enemies of human are sin because it breaks our relationship with God. However, with the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, our enemies have been dealt with, we can get back to a great relationship with God. 上帝不再沉默。上帝已经发言，他应该得到我们所有的赞美，因为他来救赎他们的百姓。「角」也可以意味着一个强壮的国王，所以他举起了一个坚强的国王来拯救他的百姓，免受敌人的伤害。人类最大的敌人是罪，因为它打破了我们与神的关系。

然而，有了耶稣降临，我们的主和救主，我们的敌人已经被处理，我们可以回到与神的伟大关系中去。

As I have indicated before, God's plan of salvation was foretold in the whole Bible, spoke through his holy prophets all through the ages from long ago. We need to be saved because of our broken relationship with God. We need God to come and saves us because we are bad at saving ourself. We cannot save ourselves. And like Adam and Eve, after realising what they have done, we are running away and hiding from God instead of running towards him.

正如我之前指出的，整个圣经中预言了神的救恩计划，从很久以前开始，他一直通过他的先知来说话。我们需要拯救，因为我们与上帝的关系破裂，我们需要上帝来拯救我们，因为我们不擅长拯救自己。我们不能拯救自己。就像亚当和夏娃一样，在意识到他们的所作所为之后，我们逃跑了，躲避着上帝，而不敢朝他飞奔而去。

How do I know that? Because we still try to hide from the sound of God. We tend to spend lesser and lesser time to read the Bible to let God speak to us. We are letting other people or things to be our small letter 'g' god, instead of making sure God, the Creator of the world, is truly the ruler of our life.

我是怎么知道那些的？因为我们仍然试图躲避神的声音。我们往往花更少的时间阅读圣经，去让上帝对我们说话。我们让其他的人或事物成为我们的小'g'神，而不确信上帝，世界的造物主，才是我们真正的生活统治者。

We spend less and less time into reading God's word but more and more time in social media checking out the latest post, we spend less and less time in praying to God but more and more time in replying emails or checking out the latest Netflix. Do you really need your Netflix account? For some who do read the Bible and pray, it was more to clock in and ticked the box that we have done so, to make us feel at ease with ourself, but there is no growth in our relationship with God.

我们花越来越少的的时间阅读上帝的话，但越来越多的时间在社交媒体上查看最新的分享，我们花越来越少的的时间向上帝祷告，却花越来越多的时间在回复电子邮件或查阅最新出的Netflix电影。你真的需要你的Netflix账号吗？对于一些读圣经和祈祷的人而言，更多的是打卡和勾选我们这样做了的选项，让我们感到自在，但事实上我们与神的关系没有增进。

How do I know that some of us still lost, because we cannot confidently cry out "Come, Lord Jesus, Come." We worry about how God looks at us. Our eyes still fixed on what we have or have not done, and we serve God out of fear or to earn God's favour and the acknowledgement of others, instead of serving out of gratitude of our heart.

我怎么知道我们中的一些人仍然迷失了呢，因为我们不能自信地大声呼喊：「来吧，主耶稣，来吧！」我们担心上帝如何看待我们。我们的眼睛仍然盯着我们做过或没有做过的事情，我们为了恐惧而为神服务，或为了赢得神的恩惠和他人的承认，而不是为了我们心中的感激之情而服务。

But God had come to change all that; he comes to save us. God has come to us to remove our fear by dealing with the root of the problem, our sins. He has overcome our enemies and set us free for a purpose.

但上帝到来改变这一切；他是来了去拯救我们。上帝来到我们身边，通过处理问题的根源，即我们的罪，来消除我们的恐惧。他战胜了我们的敌人，让我们获得自由，是为了一个目的。

72 **to show mercy** to our ancestors and **to remember** his holy covenant, ...74 **to rescue us** from the hand of our enemies and **to enable us to serve him without fear** 75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

72 他向我们列祖**施怜悯**，记得他的圣约，...叫我们既从仇敌手中被救出来，**就可以终身在他面前，无所惧怕地用圣洁和公义事奉他。**

We are saved to serve him, to become God's forerunner like Zechariah's son, John the Baptist.

我们得救是去为他服务，成为神的先锋，就像撒加利亚的儿子，施洗约翰。

76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, 77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

76 孩子啊，你要称为至高者的先知；因为你要走在主的前面，为他预备道路，77 叫他的百姓因罪得赦，认识救恩；

We are called to give God's people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins. What do you know about how people are saved? How are our sins being forgiven by God? How does someone get right with God?

我们被叫去，叫他的百姓因罪得赦，认识救恩。你知道我们是如何得救的吗？我们的罪是如何被上帝赦免的？我们是如何与神回复正确的关系？

The answers to these questions are the most fundamental for any Christian. Peter urges us in his letter, 1 Peter 3:13-15,

这些问题的答案是对每一个基督徒的最基本的。彼得在他的信中催促我们，《彼得前书》3: 13-15，

13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." 15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

13 你们若热心行善，有谁会害你们呢？14 即使你们为义受苦，也是有福的。不要怕人的威吓，也不要惊慌；15 只要心里奉主基督为圣，尊他为主。有人问你们心中盼望的理由，要随时准备答复；16 不过，要以温柔、敬畏的心回答。

We are saved to serve by telling others about the great salvation that awaits them. We are saved to serve by answering questions about our hope. If you are not sure how to do it, please speak up, don't remain silent and treat God with contempt. Stop living in fear but instead live in anticipation of the great things God will do in your life. Cling to Jesus, look into his words, speak to Him in prayer, so your sins will be removed, and you will be saved and freed to serve Him.

我们被拯救是为了我们可服务神，告诉别人在等待他们的是伟大的救恩。我们得救是为了我们可服务神，去回答有关我们的希望的问题。如果你不知道如何去做，请大声说出来，不要保持沉默，不要轻蔑地对待上帝。停止生活在恐惧中，而是生活在上帝将对你，在你的生命中，做的伟大事情的期待中。依偎耶稣，阅读他的话，在祷告中与他说话，你的罪会被移除，你将被拯救，自由地为耶稣服务。

Darkness to Light 黑暗到光明

Speaking up is very important, imagine Elizabeth did not speak up about the name of their child. The relatives and neighbours would not have asked Zechariah to confirm the name, and he would not have the chance to demonstrate his determination to obey God's instruction fully.

直言不讳很重要，想象一下如果伊利莎白没有说出孩子的名字，那么亲戚和邻居就不会要求撒加利亚去确认名字，他就没有机会证明他完全服从神的指示的决心。

What Zechariah and Elizabeth were instructed to do was groundbreaking and astonished everyone there, because what they were doing was breaking with tradition. Instead of following the tradition to call their son, Zechariah, which means "God remembers", their son's name is John, which means "God is gracious and merciful".

撒加利亚和伊利莎白奉命做的事是具有开创性的，令在场的每个人都感到吃惊，因为他们所做的是打破传统。他们没有用传统来称呼他们的儿子叫撒加利亚，意思是叫「上帝记住」，而是用约翰给他们的儿子起名字，意思是「上帝是恩慈和仁慈」。

Holding on to tradition could be one of the signs of someone living in darkness instead of the light. Instead of being guide by God to live a daily renewed life, they remain in the dark by thinking that they are ok because of their tradition, because they have done religious deeds, or because my family has always been Christian. Like saying God has been quiet for 400 years now, and we are used to the silent.

坚持传统可能是生活在黑暗中的人，而不是生活在光明中的人，的标志之一。他们不是被上帝引导每日过崭新的生命，而是因为保持传统而认为自己不需拯救。因为他们做了宗教的礼仪，或者因为家人一直是基督徒，所以仍然处于黑暗之中。好像说，上帝已经安静了400年了，我们已经习惯了沉默。

God broke the tradition with John the Baptist. He is appointed from birth to speak up for God, to bring light into the darkness of this world.

上帝以施洗约翰打破了传统。他从出生起就被指定去为神说话，把光明带进这个世界的黑暗中。

76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, 77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, 78 because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven 79 to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

76 孩子啊，你要称为至高者的先知；因为你要走在主的前面，为他预备道路，77 叫他的百姓因罪得救，认识救恩；78 因我们上帝怜悯的心肠，叫清晨的日光从高天临到我们，79 要照亮坐在黑暗中死荫里的人，把我们的脚引到和平的路上。』』

The rising sun has come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace. The rising sun is referring to Jesus, who is soon to be born. The birth of Jesus offers transformation to those lost people who are living in darkness, meaninglessly plodding through life, to a life with abundance.

清晨的日光从高天临到我们，要照亮坐在黑暗中死荫里的人，把我们的脚引到和平的路上。清晨的日光指的是即将诞生的耶稣。耶稣的诞生，为那些生活在黑暗中的迷失者带来生命的改变，从生命无意义地流逝去转向充实丰富的生命。

One of the way we know people are living in darkness is when we value tradition and convenience more than God's instructions and commands. When we hold the way we used to do certain things with greater significant than obedience towards God's instruction through his appointed messenger, it is at that time that we step away from light and stepping into the darkness.

我们知道人们是生活在黑暗中的方式之一是，当我们将传统与方便更看重于上帝的指示和命令的时候。当我们坚持某些过去的做事方式的意义，比遵循神通过他的使者所带来的指示更为重大时，我们就是离开光明，走向黑暗。

To deal with Covid-19, we needed to go online to keep each other safe, we needed to be agile and follow the health advice and guidelines of our government and our diocese. We are having church online only today is a testimony of how hard we have worked in keeping each other safe. So, when it is safe for us to meet face to face again, what will be your anticipation? It is, of course, more convenient to stay at home to watch the live streaming of church. Some of us will have to continue meeting with us online because of health reason, but will you be choosing to stay home and not come to church to gather face to face because you cannot have your usual cup of tea, or have to wear a mask to sing?

为了对付 Covid-19，我们需要在网上崇拜以保持彼此的安全，我们需要灵活应变和遵循我们的政府和教区的健康建议。今天我们回到网上崇拜证明教会多么着力于保护彼此的安全。所以，当我们可再安全地面对面崇拜时，你会作怎么样的打算？当然，呆在家里看教堂的直播更加方便。我们中的一些人因为健康原因需要继续在线与我们会面，但您选择继续呆在家里，而不是去教堂面对面地聚首，是因为你不能像往常一样喝一杯茶，或者不得不戴口罩唱歌吗？

One of the ways for us to get from darkness to light is to speak up about things that are not right according to God. To confess the wrongdoings, the sins, in our lives and repent. Repentance means turning, turning from your tradition back to God's Words and instructions, turning from being a consumer to live a life of a disciple, a follower of Jesus. Turn to pursue discipleship.

我们从黑暗到光明的一种方式坦率承认一些于上帝而言不对的事情。承认在我们的生命中的罪和悔改。「悔改」意味着改变，从你们的传统转向神的话语和指示，从以消费者的态度去定意你的生命变成以作为门徒，作为耶稣的追随者，去活出你的生命。转向追随作为门徒的生命。

When Paul speaks up about his life and works for God at the end of Acts, in 26:20, he said, 当保罗在《使徒行传》26:20的结束时谈及他的人生和为上帝工作时，他说，

20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

20 我先在大马士革，后在耶路撒冷和犹太全地，以及外邦，劝勉他们应当悔改归向上帝，行事与悔改的心相称。

To change from darkness to light, we need to acknowledge our sin and repent. True repentance is not done in the dark. It is demonstrable. It is not saying sorry and keep going without any changes. Jesus offers transformation from living sinful, unholy life to lives of righteousness. The birth of Jesus is much more than giving us a reason to get together, to eat food and exchange gifts. The birth of Jesus is a reminder of the monumental change that God is bringing in all of us, which begins in salvation. God saves us from a life of meaninglessness to be his servants.

要从黑暗到光明，我们需要承认我们的罪和悔改。真正的悔改不是在黑暗中完成的。这是可证明的。这不只是说句对不起或继续没有任何生命的变化。耶稣提供了从有罪、邪恶的生活到正义的生活的转变。耶稣的诞生不仅仅是给我们一个聚会、吃饭和交换礼物的理由。耶稣的诞生是提醒我们，神正给我们所有人带来巨大的变化，从救恩开始。上帝把我们从无意义的生活中拯救出来，成为他的仆人。

How is your relationship with God and others? Jesus comes to change your life; what changes and growth have you got to show that Jesus is in your life? What anticipation do you hold? What service have you offered to God? Is your life full of light as bright as the new dawn sun? It will if you stop hiding and run towards the light. Let the Son of God, Jesus take hold of your life today and let us walk on the path of peace that God offers to us.

你与上帝和其他人的关系如何？耶稣来改变你的生命，你有什么变化和成长，以显示耶稣是在你的生命中？你持有什么期待？你向上帝提供了什么服务？你的生命是否像新的黎明太阳一样明亮？如果你停止躲藏，朝光明跑去，就会让神的儿子耶稣，来掌握你今天的生命，让我们走在神给我们的和平之路上。