

Song of Peace 和平之歌

Luke 2:8-20 路加福音 2: 8-20

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“Soon daylight stole upon us and France was France once more. With sad farewells we each prepared to settle back to war. But the question haunted every heart that lived that wondrous night, ‘Whose family have I fixed within my sights?’” Those are words from a song written by John McCutcheon in 1984 called *Christmas in the Trenches*.

「很快日光便会偷偷地走出来，法国再次是法国。带着悲伤的告别，我们每个人都准备回到战争中。但在这个奇妙的夜晚，困扰着每一颗心的问题是，“我的枪将会对准那一个家庭的成员？”」这些话来自约翰·麦库切恩在1984年写的一首名为《战壕里的圣诞节》的歌曲。

The song depicts a series of widespread unofficial ceasefires along the Western Front of the First World War around Christmas 1914. Collectively, these ceasefires are known as the Christmas Truce.

这首歌描绘了1914年，圣诞节前后，在第一次世界大战西部战线的一系列广泛的非官方停火。这些停火被统称为**圣诞休战**。

In the week leading up to Christmas, French, German, and British soldiers stopped killing each other at the end of the day to venture into no man's land between the trenches to mingle and exchange food and souvenirs.

在圣诞节的一周前，法国、德国和英国士兵有一天结束的时候停止互相残杀，冒险进入战壕之间的没人地带，混在一起交换食物和纪念品。

There were joint burial ceremonies and prisoner swaps, while several meetings ended in carol-singing.

有联合的葬礼和囚犯交换，而且几个聚会以颂歌结束。

Men played games of football with one another, creating one of the most memorable images of the truce.

很多人一起玩足球比赛，创造了休战期的最令人难忘的画面之一。

Then immediately afterwards, started killing each other again.

紧接着的，是又再开始互相残杀。

The nations were at war and yet there was a sense of peace in those moments as hostility ceased.

这些国家处于战争状态，然而，当敌对情绪停止时，人们却感到了一种和平感。

Real and enduring peace is so elusive.

真正而持久和平是如此难以捉摸。

World War One was described as *the war to end all wars*. Of course, the peace was made on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

第一次世界大战被描述为 *结束所有战争的战争*。当然，和平是在 1918 年第 11 个月的第 11 天的第 11 小时达成。

Peace didn't last very long. WW2 was just around the corner.

但和平没有持续多久。第二次世界大战不久后又开始了。

In fact, since the end of WW2 to now, there has only been a total of 26 days where there has been no war somewhere in the world.

实际上，从第二次世界大战以来到现在，全世界总共只有 26 天没有发生战争。

Yet, as we sing every Christmas, there was a promise of peace at the very first Christmas.

然而，正如我们每个圣诞节所唱的诗歌，第一个圣诞节许下了一个和平的承诺。

In Luke 2 says this at v.14: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.*

在《路加福音》2:14 中说，「在至高之处荣耀归与上帝！在地上平安归与他所喜悦的人！」

John McCutcheon's song longs for peace, as individuals we desire peace in relationships, our world is in desperate need for peace – and this bit of the bible promises peace.

约翰·麦库切恩的歌曲渴望和平，作为一个人我们渴望和平，我们的世界迫切需要和平…而《圣经》的这一部分承诺着和平。

So what is this peace that the birth of Jesus promises and how do we get it? How should we respond to the birth of Jesus?

那么，耶稣的诞生所承诺的这种和平是什么呢？我们怎样才可以得到？我们应该怎样对耶稣的诞生作出响应？

The claim of Christianity is that Christmas is all about the Son of God coming into his creation in order to save it.

基督教的主张是，圣诞节全是关于神的儿子进入他的创造，以拯救它他们。

So what? How do we make Christmas meaningful?

那又如何？我们如何让圣诞节有意义？

I've got three things we see briefly from these verses: **TREASURE THE MESSAGE, FIND PEACE, and LIVE FEARLESSLY**

我们从这段经文中可简要地看到三件事：**珍惜那信息，找着和平，无所畏惧地生活**

TREASURE THE MESSAGE 珍惜那信息

Really hearing the Christmas story isn't easy to do when you've heard it so many times. There is an over familiarity with it.

当你这么多次听到圣诞故事，要真正听到它的意义是不容易做到的。对它有一种过度的熟悉。

To hear well is important in this passage. The shepherds were told something by the angels then they went and saw that it was as they were told. Then in v.17, when they saw Jesus, they spread the word about everything that was told them about the child.

在这段经文中，清楚地去听是很重要。天使告诉了牧羊人一些东西，然后他们就去了，他们所看到的与被告知的是一模一样。然后，在17节中，当他们看见耶稣时，就把天使论这孩子的话传开了。

In v18 we read: ***and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherd said to them.***

在18节中，我们读到：***听见的人都诧异牧羊人对他们所说的话。***

There is an even deeper hearing in v.19. It says: ***But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.***

在19节中有更深入的聆听。它说：***马利亚却把这一切的事存在心里，反复思考。***

This is more than merely hearing something news. We all hear news each day and on the most part it has no effect on us.

这不仅是听到一些新信息。我们每天都听到新闻，而大部分对我们没有任何影响。

Those with children know the experience of telling them something and it not being followed through on. Those with husbands too!

有孩子的人会知道告诉了他们某事，但并没有被听从的经验。那些有丈夫的也会有同感！

Did we hear the information? Yes. Did we give it our attention, think out the implications, really understand? No.

我们听到信息了吗？当然是的。我们给予它我们的注意力，想出它的含义来，真的明白了吗？并没有。

Firstly, we are told here that God speaks to and through the ordinary. God gives us his word through the ordinary.

首先，我们在这里被告知，神对普通人，并通过普通人说话。上帝通过平凡的人给我们他的话。

The shepherds got an angel, everyone else gets a shepherd. Just ordinary, low class, shepherds.

有个天使对牧羊人说话，其他人都从牧羊人那里得信息。只是普通的，低级的，牧羊人。

The Biblical authors got special revelation from God...Moses, Isaiah, John, to name a few. The rest of us get a book. It's a book that is so easy to not pay attention to.

《圣经》的作者从上帝那里得到了特别的启示...就如摩西，以赛亚，约翰。我们其余的人得到一本书。这是一本容易不被注意的书。

How many new year resolutions have fallen flat in Leviticus?

有多少新年的决定到了《利未记》就停下来了？

Secondly, we are told here Mary is a model for us. She heard the news from the angel, and now from the shepherds. She doesn't disregard the shepherds.

接着，我们被告知马利亚是我们的模范。她从天使那里听到信息，现在也从牧羊人那里听到信息，她没有不理睬牧羊人。

We are told she treasures and ponders in her heart what she has heard. To PONDER is to put into context, and to connect. It's connecting this news with the rest of my life. How does it explain it? What does it mean for the way I'm living? It's a focussed mental discipline.

我们被告知她把这一切的事存在心里，反复思考。反复思考是看上文下理，并抓出联机。是以此信息与我的余生连在一起。应如何去解释？这对我的生活方式意味着什么？这是一个集中精神的纪律。

Treasuring is a little more emotional. It's to keep it alive. To keep the fire burning. To relish. To savour.

珍存是更感性一点的。是要保持活着。使火继续燃烧。去回味。去品尝。

Mary doesn't just know the news of the arrival of God intellectually, she fans the flame in her heart. She takes this news into the centre of her being until it means everything to her. It's an attitude.

马利亚不只是在智识上知道上帝到来的信息，她在她心中如火挑旺起来。她把把这个信息放在她心中的深处，直到成为她生命意义的一切。这是一种态度。

We shouldn't underestimate our ability to hear and not hear the good news of Christianity...the gospel...the word of God.

我们不应该低估我们听到和听不到基督教好消息...福音...上帝的话的能力。

Jesus told a story called the Parable of the Sower. Same sower, same seed, but four different responses. Most people hear but don't listen to the word of God.

耶稣说了一个「撒种的比喻」。同一个撒种的人，同样的种子，但有四种不同的反应。大多数人听了但却没有听到神的道。

Some people hear it and don't believe it. Some people hear it and say they believe it, but they don't treasure it. They don't ponder it. They don't let it come into the centre of their lives and change them.

有些人听到，但不相信。有些人听到，说他们相信，但他们没有存在心里，没有反复思考。没有让它进入他们生命的中心，并去改变他们。

We don't want to be like the crowd that just marvels, we want to be like Mary and ponder..treasure. Hear well.

我们不想只像那些只是惊叹的人群，我们要像马利亚一样存在心里，反复思考。好好地聆听。

FIND PEACE 找着和平

When we do hear well, we discover a remarkable promise – the promise of peace.

当我们清楚地听时，我们会发现一个非凡的承诺…和平的承诺。

Take a look at vv13-14: ***Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”***

看看 13-14 节：**忽然，有一大队天兵同那天使赞美上帝说：「在至高之处荣耀归与上帝！在地上平安归与他所喜悦的人！」**

It's a very specific promise of peace. It's peace for those to whom God's grace and favour and mercy rests. On the surface this looks like a promise for just a select group, but it has to be read in light of v.10.

这是一个非常具体的和平承诺。对于那些上帝的恩典、恩惠和怜悯所临到的人，这就是和平。从表面上看，这看起来像只是对某一组被选择的人的承诺，但它必须根据第 10 节来读取。

Verse 10 reads: ***the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.***

第 10 节说：**那天使对他们说：「不要惧怕！看哪！因为我报给你们大喜的信息，是关乎万民的：因今天在戴维的城里，为你们生了救主，就是主基督。**

Luke is saying that one of the great benefits of grasping the good news of God's grace is you now have peace with God. You see, one of the important themes of New Testament is that before we embrace God's grace and mercy, we are at war with God.

路加说，掌握神恩典的好信息的一大好处是你现在与神和平了。你看，新约的重要主题之一是，在我们拥抱神的恩典和怜悯之前，我们是与神在开战。

Romans 5-8 in particular spells this out for us. Most people don't believe that. Most would say they don't believe in God, or they are indifferent to God, but hardly anyone says they are angry at God or hate God.

《罗马书》5 至 8 章特别为我们说明出来。大多数人不相信。大多数人会说，他们不相信上帝，或者他们对上帝漠不关心，但几乎没有人会说他们对上帝生气或憎恨上帝。

Romans 8:7 says: *The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law.*

《罗马书》8:7说，*因为体贴肉体就是与上帝为敌，对上帝的律法不顺服，事实上也无法顺服。*

Our relationship with God is not disbelief and indifference, its hostility. The irreligious person is overtly asserting their independence from God. They openly declare they want to live life their way.

我们与上帝的关系不只是怀疑和冷漠，而是满载敌意。不虔诚不信的人公开宣称自己独立于上帝。他们公开宣称他们想以自己的方式生活。

The religious person covertly asserts their independence from God. The religious person reads the Bible, prays, follows the 10 commandments, with the expectation it wins God's approval and good will. It's an attempt to control. It's a declaration that we don't trust God. 宗教人士秘密地宣称自己独立于上帝。宗教人士读圣经，祈祷，遵循十诫，期望赢得神的赞同和美意。是企图去控制。是声明我们不信任上帝。

No matter who we are, in our nature we are hostile to God and can't stand the idea that he is in charge. Left to our own devices we are all committed to the idea that we will only be truly happy if we are in charge of our own lives.

无论我们是谁，在我们的本性中，我们对上帝怀有敌意，无法忍受他是掌权者的想法。若我们可随己意而行，我们都致力认为，如果我们可掌控自己生命的一切，我们才会真正的快乐。

The mark of a real Christian is they come to see that hostility. They have seen not only have they wrong things, but even the right things they have done have been done for the wrong reasons.

一个真正的基督徒的标志是，他们看得到这种敌意。他们不仅看到所做的错误事情，甚至他们所做的正确的事情也因为错误的原因而做。

When we turn away from independence from God and accept what God has done for us through Jesus Christ, that is a peace treaty. The war is over.

当我们脱离对神的独立，去接受神通过耶稣基督为我们所做的一切，就是和平条约。战争结束了。

Grace and peace go together. Those who grasp the grace of God are those who have peace with God.

恩典与和平是一起的。掌握神恩典的人，是与神和平的人。

At the very least it means Christians ought to be peacemakers. It's what Jesus called his disciples to in the sermon on the mount.

至少这意味着基督徒应该成为和平的缔造者。这是耶稣在登山宝训中呼召他的门徒去成为的。

Peacemakers are people who have admitted their wrongs and flaws and sins to God - they have swallowed their pride and found peace with God. When that happens between you and God it means you can go out into the world and do it with others.

缔造和平的人是向上帝承认自己的错误、缺点和罪的人…他们吞下了他们的骄傲，与上帝找到了和平。当你和上帝之间发生这种事时，这意味着你可以走出去到这个社会中，和别人一起去做。

Christians know how to admit they are wrong, how to forgive, how to reconcile.

Peacemakers between races and classes, family members, neighbours, colleagues.

基督徒知道如何承认自己错了，如何宽恕，如何和解。作种族和阶级之间，家庭成员，邻居，同事之间的和平缔造者。

Peace comes to those who grasp God's grace, and to the world through them.

和平来到那些掌握神的恩典的人，并通过他们来到世界。

LIVE FEARLESSLY 无所畏惧地生活

Peace is possible for those who listen well to the word of God - who grasp the gospel of God's grace. Being at peace with God leads to a fearless living.

那些好好地听神的话的人…掌握神的恩典福音的…可以得到和平。与神和好，导致无所畏惧的生活。

Have a look at v8-10: *there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."*

看看8至10节，在伯利恒的野外有牧羊人，夜间值班看守羊群。有主的一个使者站在他们旁边，主的荣光四面照着他们，牧羊人就很惧怕。那天使对他们说：「不要惧怕！看哪！因为我报给你们大喜的信息，是关乎万民的」

The shepherds were terrified. The angels even tell them not to be afraid. In fact, they actually say: *Do not be afraid. I bring you good news.*

牧羊人很惧怕。天使甚至告诉他们不要害怕。事实上，他们实际上说：**不要惧怕！我报给你们大喜的信息**

Embracing the good news of Christmas means we can be at peace and live without fear. 迎接圣诞节的好信息意味着我们可以和平生活，无所畏惧。

What normally happens in the Bible is that when God shows up people are terrified. The first time is in the garden of Eden after Adam and Eve sinned. They chose to put themselves at the centre of live.

《圣经》中通常发生的事情是，当上帝出现时，人们会惧怕。第一次是在伊甸园在亚当和夏娃犯罪后。他们选择把自己放在生命的中心。

We all do it. It's the lie that has entered all of our hearts and one of the great sources of our behaviour as the human race.

我们都这样做。这是已经进入我们所有的心，也是驱动我们人类的行为的大谎言。

Adam and Eve didn't experience fear until they started to live independently of God. When we have a perfect relationship with God there is no fear in life.

亚当和夏娃一直没有经历恐惧，直到开始独立于神去生活。当我们与神有完美的关系时，生活中就没有恐惧。

The vast majority live lives of fear - the fear of rejection, failure, bad things happening, the future, death. Fear is connected to not trusting God.

绝大多数人生活在恐惧中…害怕被拒绝、害怕失败、害怕坏事发生、害怕未来、害怕死亡。恐惧与不信任上帝有关。

Instead, we live each day trying to earn self-worth, and people's respect. If we don't constantly get affirmation and love from people we just die.

相反，我们每天的生活都在试图赢得自我价值和人们的尊重。如果我们得不到别人不断的肯定和爱，我们就会死去。

We are slaves to our performance and other people's perceptions. It's a life of fear because we know we can't control any of those things, let alone the future.

我们是我们的表现和别人观念的奴隶。这是恐惧的生活，因为我们知道我们无法控制这些事情，更不用说控制未来。

It's hard enough trying to manage people's perceptions of us let alone our own future. It's why when bad things happen we get freaked out because it's another reminder we are not in control.

试图管理人们对我们的看法已经够难了，更不用说我们自己的未来了。这就是为什么当坏事发生时，我们会惊慌失措，因为它再次提醒我们无法控制。

We are especially afraid of death. In death we lose everything. We are filled with fear, but we fill our lives with distraction in order to not think about it. Distraction so that we can't listen well to the good news.

我们特别害怕死亡。死亡，表示我们将失去了一切。我们充满恐惧，但为了不去思考，我们的生活充满了分心。分心，使我们不能听好消息。

We are our own masters and we are unqualified for the job, and we know it! That is why we live in fear. We have taken God's crown and placed it on our own head - so to speak - and we are way over our heads.

我们是自己的主人，但我们不符合资格去做，而且我们知道这一点！这就是为什么我们生活在恐惧中。就好像，我们取了上帝的王冠，放在我们自己的头上，我们远超越了我们所能应付的。

We are usurpers to a throne we don't deserve, nor are qualified for, and on the first Christmas the real King turned up and we are terrified!

我们是篡夺了我们不配得的王位，也是没有资格得的，在第一个圣诞节真正的王出现了，我们充满恐惧！

His beauty shows us our ugliness. His power shows us our impotence. His light shows us our darkness.

他的美貌向我们展示了我们的丑陋。他的权力展示了我们的无能。他的荣光展示了我们的黑暗。

Christmas is the solution! Verse 11: ***a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.***

圣诞节是解决的方案！第 11 节：***为你们生了救主，就是主基督。***

Jesus is the saviour. To have peace and live fearlessly we need to abandon every form of self-salvation and rest in his salvation.

耶稣是救主。要有和平，无所畏惧地生活，我们需要放弃一切形式的自我救赎，安息在他的救赎中。

The baby born in the manger is the LORD. Lord is translated from the Greek word KURIOS. It is a significant word in the New Testament. Its parallel in the Old Testament is Yahweh...the covenant name of God.

在马槽里出生的婴儿是「主」。「主」是希腊单词 KURIOS 的翻译。是《新约》中一个重要的单词。是在《旧约》中的耶和华…神立圣约的名称…的同义词。

The baby born in the manger is not just a saviour, or a sage, he is the creator God. If the God who made all things is prepared to humble himself and come to earth for us, he is trust worthy.

在马槽里出生的婴儿，不仅仅是救主，或至圣者，他是造万物的神。如果做万物的上帝愿意谦卑自己，为我们来到世上，他是值得信任的。

Way back in 1961 the Soviet Union put a man in space. The 27 year old Yuri Gagarin orbited the earth in 89 minutes.

早在 1961 年，苏联就把一个人送到太空。27 岁的尤里·加加林围绕地球飞行了 89 分钟。

Nikita Khrushchev was head of the Soviet Union at the time. He said of the event that they have been into space and God was nowhere to be found. There is no God up there.

尼基塔·赫鲁晓夫当时是苏联的领导人。他们为他们进入太空的事件说，我们进了太空但上帝无处可寻。那里没有上帝。

The great Oxford scholar, CS Lewis, wrote an article in response to that comment called "The Seeing Eye".

伟大的牛津学者，刘易斯，写了一篇文章来回应，名为「看见的眼睛」的一篇评论。

He wrote: *The Russians, I am told, report that they have not found God in outer space... Looking for God—or Heaven—by exploring space is like reading or seeing all Shakespeare's plays in the hope that you will find Shakespeare as one of the characters.*
他写道：有人告诉我，俄国人报告说他们没有在外太空中找到上帝…通过探索太空来寻找上帝或天堂，就像希望您能阅读或看莎士比亚的所有剧，在那些角色中找到莎士比亚是其中之一一样。

Shakespeare is in one sense present at every moment in every play. But he is never present in the same way as Hamlet.
从某种意义上说，莎士比亚在每部戏的每时每刻都存在。但是他从来没有像哈姆雷特那样出现过。

My point is that, if God does exist, He is related to the universe more as an author is related to a play than as one object in the universe is related to another.
我的意思是，如果上帝确实存在，那么他与宇宙的关系就要多像作者与戏剧的关系，而不是宇宙中的一个物体与另一个物那样相关。

He went on to ask the question, *how then do we find God, or avoid him?*
他继续问这个问题，那我们怎么找到神，或者避开他？

He first answered how we avoid finding God. Avoid silence, avoid solitude. Concentrate on money, sex, status, health and on your own grievances. Keep the radio on. Live in a crowd.
他首先回答了我们如何避免找到上帝。避免沉默，避免孤独。专心于金钱，性爱，地位，健康和自己的不满。保持收音机开着。住在人群中。

Use plenty of sedation. If you must read books, select them very carefully. But you'd be safer to stick to the newspapers.
使用大量的镇静剂。如果您必须阅读书籍，请非常仔细地选择它们。但是，您坚持阅读报纸会更安全。

To some, God is discoverable everywhere; to others, nowhere
在某些人看来，上帝是无处不在，都能找到。对别的人，是不在何处。

Lewis wrote that he had less advice about how to find God because it was God who found him. God comes to us.

刘易斯写道，他对如何找到上帝的建议较少，因为是上帝找到了他。上帝来找我们。

His point was that the only way to know the God who made everything is if he writes himself into the history of the world he has made.

他的意思是，了解造就万物的上帝的唯一途径，就是他将自己写进自己创造的世界历史中。

The claim of Christmas is infinitely wonderful.

圣诞节的宣称是无限美好的。

Christmas means God has looked at the world he created, he could see the real trouble we are in, and he wrote himself into history as Jesus Christ.

圣诞节意味着上帝看着他创造的世界，他可以看到我们所处的真正麻烦，并且以耶稣基督的身份写进了自己创造的世界历史中。

He didn't come to simply embrace us, but to die for us. To save us. He lost his glory so we unimportant people could have glory forever.

他不是来简单地拥抱我们，而是为我们而死。为了拯救我们。他失去了荣耀，所以我们这些不重要的人可以永远拥有荣耀。

He lost his peace so we could have peace forever.

他失去了和平，所以我们可以永远拥有和平。

You can trust someone who does all that for you. You can trust him with your future and with your life.

为您做所有这一切的人，是您可以信任。您可以把你的未来和生命交托给他。

Do not fear, look at Christmas. To the degree we grab hold of this good news and ponder it and treasure it, to that degree our fears diminish and peace rises.

不要害怕，看看圣诞节。在一定程度上，我们抓住了这个好消息，并加以思考和珍惜，在这种程度上，我们的恐惧减少了，和平也增加了。