

**Illuminate**  
真光照耀  
**Week #1 “Waiting in the Dark”**  
第一週 “在黑暗中等候”  
**Isaiah 9:1-7, John 1:1-14**  
以賽亞書 9:1-7, 約翰一書 1:1-14  
**December 4, 2022**  
2022年12月4日

**Worship 敬拜**

**齊來崇拜 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

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。

**君王就在這裡 Worthy Is the King**

詞, 曲: 曾祥怡 Grace Tseng © 讚美之泉版權所有

聖潔耶穌 祢寶座在這裡  
哈利路亞 祢榮耀在這裡  
君王就在這裡 我們歡然獻祭  
擁戴祢為王 榮耀都歸於祢  
君王就在這裡 大能彰顯這地  
和散那歸於至高神主耶穌

更多更多來高舉祢的名  
更多更多來呼喊祢的名  
更多更多來承認祢是主  
直到那日 我再見祢的面

**O Holy Night 哦！聖善夜**

詞曲 Adolphe Charles Adam, Placide Cappeau, and John S. Dwigth 譯唱 佳音吉他小課堂, 甘思韻

哦 聖善夜  
眾星閃耀極光明  
親愛救主  
今夜為我降生

黑暗世界  
眾人深陷入罪中

直到主來  
眾靈魂得驚醒

何等盼望  
普世歡欣迎接主  
何等光芒  
明亮晨光照耀

恭敬跪拜	靠他聖名
齊聽 眾天使歌聲	傷害壓迫終止
哦 聖善夜	喜樂時刻
聖夜基督降生	我們來高聲唱和
哦 聖善夜	聖潔尊名
聖夜基督降生	全心接力傳送
真誠相愛	耶穌是主
這是救主的教導	哦 讚美祂到永遠
成全律法	尊貴榮耀
帶來平安福音	歸主直到萬代
斷開鎖鏈	尊貴榮耀
釋放被擄的兄弟	歸主直到萬代
	歸主直到萬代

## Offering 奉獻

- For the City Initiative 為城市倡議
  - A day...when I realized I didn't want to look at my life and realize I hadn't done anything... 有一天...當我意識到我不想審視自己的生活, 意識到我什麼都沒做時...
  - Through the years...focus... 多年來...專注於...
    - Water 水
    - Poverty 貧窮
    - Education 教育
    - Gospel centered churches. 以福音為中心的教會
- Traditionally at B4 we have collectively and individually participated in ADVENT giving.傳統上, 在B4教會, 我們一起或者單獨參加基督降臨節的捐贈。
- We simply ask you to pray and consider an extra gift during December that will be 100 percent applied to these causes. 我們只要求你在12月禱告並考慮一份額外的禮物, 這份禮物將100%的應用於這些原因。
  - Now, we started this earlier this year because we've set some fairly audacious goals for next year...and so we gave you these boxes...to take home and fill, and also, because there's a QR code on the side that will take you to our For the City Website where you can read more. 現在, 我們今年早些時候開始了這項工作, 因為我們為明年設定了一些相當大膽的目標...所以我給你們這些盒子...請拿回家裝滿, 而且因為側面有一個二維碼, 你可以訪問我們的“為城市”的網站, 在那裏你可以了解更多信息。
    - So whether it's the box, or a check, or an online gift, we invite you to pray about what you might give above and beyond your regular giving so that together, we can change the world through this initiative. 所以不管是盒子、支票還是線上禮物, 我都邀請你為超出常規奉獻的捐贈禱告, 我們通過這項倡議一起來改變世界。

## Announcements 公告

- Christmas Festivities | b4church.org/christmas - This Week, join us in writing a Card of Kindness to someone. We have cards for you in the Commons. 聖誕節活動] b4church.org/christmas - 本週, 和我們一起為某人寫一張感謝的卡片。我們在大廳為你準備了卡片。
- Christmas Invites Available 提供聖誕邀請卡
- Next week, Kids Christmas Choir will be leading us in worship // Our Kindergarten - 5th Graders will be joining us in worship 下週, 兒童聖誕合唱團將帶領我們敬拜// 我們的幼兒園 - 五年級學生將參加我們的敬拜。

## Message 信息

- Today we are beginning a short series, focused on Christmas, called Illuminate. • But as we begin this series and before I explain where we are going, I want to go back to the beginning of everything. 今天我們將開始一個短的系列, 專注於聖誕節, 名為“真光照耀”。•但是在我開始這個系列之前, 在我解釋我們將要去哪裡之前, 我想回到萬物之初。
  - Back to the book of Genesis. 回到創世紀這本書。
- The beginning of the Book of Genesis is intense. 創世紀的開頭很緊密。
  - I've always loved it because it is poetic, but it is not in the least bit romantic. 我很喜歡它因為它很有詩意, 但是一點也不浪漫。
    - The beginning of this story - this story of humanity, starts with GOD. 故事的開始 - 人類故事, 起源於神。
    - The Hebrew word, “ELOHIM” 希伯來語, “ELOHIM”。
    - And it says that this God, this ELOHIM, created. 它說這是神, 這個ELOHIM創造的。
      - There are heavens. 有天
      - There is earth. 有地
      - But then, it says that this Earth, this place we call home. 然後, 它說這個地球, 我們稱之為家的地方。
        - This. Was: 這, 是:
          - Formless. 無形的
          - Void. 空的
          - DARKNESS. 黑的
          -
      - The Hebrew word or words are: “Tohu va vohu” 希伯來文字, 或者詞語是: “Tohu va vohu”
        - It's fun to say. 說起來有趣,
        - But not fun to experience. 但是體驗並不有趣。
      - It is chaos. 這是一片渾沌
        - It is WILD. 荒野
        - It is WASTE. 廢棄
      - Like all the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle tossed out of their box across the living room floor. 就像所有的拼圖塊都從盒子裡扔在客廳地板上。
        - Utter disorganization...not just disorganization, but the antithesis of organization. 徹底的混亂...不僅是混亂, 而是沒有

整齊規矩的概念。

- We think we understand a lack of organization – but this is chaos to a degree that we don't understand. 我們以為我們理解缺乏規律的樣子 - 但是這種混亂到了我們無法理解的程度。

- This is tohu va vohu. 這是tohu va vohu。
  - Formless. 無形
  - Void. 空的
  - DARKNESS. 黑的。

- But then there is a wind over those waters – “Ruach”. 然後風吹過水面 - “吹過”。
  - Not just a wind, but God's own breath. 不僅是風, 而是神自己的氣息。
  - And then the breath becomes a voice. 然後呼吸變成了一個聲音。
  - And this voice is speaking. 這個聲音在說話。
  - There is a word. 出現了話語。
  - And that word brings order to the chaos. 這句話給渾沌帶來了秩序。
  - God's word, in God's voice, in God's breath, turn the chaos, into something comprehensible. 神的話, 神的聲音, 神的呼吸, 把渾沌變成了可以理解的東西。
  - And turns the DARKNESS, into light. 轉暗為光。
- There is some kind of WORD that is spoken, and with this word there is LIGHT. 話語說出來, 伴隨這些話語而來的是光。
- There was light, and the light was good. 有光, 而且光是好的。

- Now. Think about this: Isn't this an interesting way to begin this very long book? 現在, 想像一下: 這不是有趣的方式開始這本很長的書嗎?

- We have: 我們有:

**God** 神

- We have: 我們有:

**God** 神  
**Chaos & Darkness** 渾沌和黑暗

- Then we have: 然後我們有:

**God** 神  
**Chaos & Darkness** 渾沌和黑暗  
**Word** 話語

- And then, we have: 然後, 我們有:

**God** 神  
**Chaos & Darkness** 渾沌和黑暗  
**Word** 話語  
**Light** 光

- (Please leave this slide up...) (請把這張幻燈片放上面...)

- That is how this book, that is how this story of God, and humanity begins. 這本書就是這樣開始的, 有關神和人類的故事就是這樣開始的。

- There is God, and DARKNESS, and then the word is spoken, and with this word, there is LIGHT. 有神, 有黑暗, 然後這句話被說出來, 伴隨著這句話, 有了光。

- Now, it's important to know that darkness and light are very evocative words in Hebrew. 現在, 重要的是要知道黑暗和光在希伯來語中是非常耐人尋味的詞。

- Darkness evokes everything that is anti-God: 黑暗喚起一切反神的東西。

- the wicked ( Prov 2:13 ), 罪人(箴言 2:13)
- judgment ( Exod 10:21 ), 審判(出埃及記 10:21)
- death ( Psalm 88:12 ). 死亡(詩歌 88:12)

- Darkness has a way of making us honest. 黑暗有辦法使我們誠實。

- Or, maybe even MORE than honest. 或者, 不僅僅是誠實。

- Have you ever noticed how much more disturbing mysterious noises are AT NIGHT. 你有沒有注意到在夜晚有多少令人不安的神秘噪音。

- That sound? 那聲音?
- What is it? 是什麼?

- At night, it could be ANYTHING. 在夜晚, 它可以是任何東西。

- *Illustration: PJ and Jenny* 插圖: PJ 和 Jenny

- *A few years ago some friends were recounting some stories of a house they lived when they were fresh out of college.* 幾年前, 一些朋友講述他們大學剛畢業住的房子的一些故事。

- *They told us story after freaky story.* 他們講述一個又一個怪異的故事。

- *One after another.* 一個又一個。

- *Stories that make the hair on the back of your neck stand up.* 讓你汗毛直立的故事。

- *In fact, normally when these stories get retold by wives, husbands stand by and say things like, "It wasn't that bad."* 事實上, 通常當這些故事被妻子復述時, 丈夫會站在一旁說, "這沒那麼可怕。"

- *"I wasn't that scared."* "我沒那麼害怕。"

- *Not him. He was like, "Oh man, I ran. I called her. I grabbed a baseball bat."* 不是他, 他就像, "嗨, 伙計, 我跑了, 我打電話給她, 我抓起一根棒球棍。"

- *These were some good, creepy, scary stories.* 這些好的, 令人毛骨悚然的, 可怕的故事。

- And guess when they ALL seemed to happen? 猜猜它們似乎都發生在什麼時候?

- AT NIGHT. 在晚上。

- There's just something about DARKNESS that can makes something bad, even worse.

那兒是一些發生壞事，甚至比壞事更糟的黑暗。

- Back to Genesis. THAT, was the world. It was dark. 回到創世紀。那是當時的世界，它是黑暗的。
- But then there is Light 但是後來有了光。
- It is the first of the Creator's works. 這是創造者的第一個工作。
  - Light is used metaphorically... 光經常被用來比喻...
    - for life ( Psalm 56:13 ), 為了生命 (詩篇 56:13 ),
    - salvation ( Isa 9:2 ), 拯救 (以賽亞書 9:2),
    - for the divine presence of God ( Exod 10:23 ). 神的榮耀顯現 (出埃及記 10:23 )。
- In the first creative act, "God saw that the light was good". 在第一件創造中，“神看那光是好的。”
- Light always involves the removal of darkness in the unfolding of biblical history and theology. 在展現的聖經歷史和神學裡，光總是與去除黑暗有關。
  - It's light, that always drives out the dark. 這是光，總是驅除黑暗。
- You can't turn DARK on. 你沒有辦法開啟黑暗。
  - Like you can't walk into a room, and flick the DARK switch. 比如你不能走進一個房間，擰開黑暗的開關。
  - It doesn't work that way. 不是這樣工作的。
    - Why? 為什麼？
    - Because LIGHT, is more powerful, than d a r k. 因為，光，比黑暗更有權能。
- We have God. Chaos. Darkness.Word.LIGHT. 我們有神，混亂，黑暗，道(神的話)，和光。
  - That's how this story begins. 這是這個故事的開始。
- But then, as you continue to read that story, there's a disruption. 但是然後，在你繼續讀這個故事，擾亂出現了。
- There are still days, and there are still nights. 白天依然存在，黑夜也依然存在。
- But there's also a separation between God, and man. 但是神和人分開了。
- And page after page. year after year. century after century, you read stories of darkness. 一頁接一頁，一年接一年，一個世紀接著一個世紀，你讀着黑暗的故事。
- Desperation, 絕望，
  - Chaos, 混亂，
  - Sorrow, 悲傷，
  - Loneliness. 孤獨。
    - It is life stripped of light. 那是失去光的生活。
- Humanity may be living in the day, but they are experiencing darkness. 人類也許生活中有白天，但是經歷的卻是黑暗。
- Then, around 700 B.C. we meet this man named Isaiah. 然後，在公元前700年，我們遇到有一個叫以賽亞的人。

- He's writing to the people of Judah. 他在給猶大國的百姓寫信。
- But in his writing there seems to be a second layer. 但是，他的信裡彷彿還有一層。
  - It's like a letter, within a letter. 好像是信中之信。
  - It's words between the lines. 話中之話。
  - He's speaking to now, but he's speaking to the future. 他在對當前說話，但是又在對未來說話。
- There are actual manuscripts of his writing that date back to a couple hundred years before the birth of Christ. 他寫信的羊皮卷出現在基督降生的幾百年以前。
- One particular one stands out. 其中有一段特別突出。
- Remember the people are desperate. Life is chaotic. It is filled with sorrow. And loneliness. 記得人們是絕望的，生活是混亂的。生活中充滿了悲傷和孤獨。
  - Then we read this: 然後我們讀到這些：

• **Isaiah 9:1-7 以賽亞書 9:1-7**

- **But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, "but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.**

1 但那受过痛苦的，必不再见幽暗。从前神使西布伦地，和拿弗他利地被藐视，末后却使这沿海的路，约但河外，外邦人的加利利地，得着荣耀。2 在黑暗中行走的百姓，看见了大光。住在死荫之地的人，有光照耀他们。3 你使这国民繁多，加增他们的喜乐。他们在你面前欢喜，好像收割的欢喜，像人分掬物那样的快乐。4 因为他们所负的重轭，和肩头上的杖，并欺压他们人的棍，你都已经折断，好像在米甸的日子一样。5 战士在乱杀之间所穿戴的盔甲，并那滚在血中的衣服，都必作为可烧的，当作火柴。6 因有一婴孩为我们而生，有一子赐给我们。政权必担在他的肩头上，他名称为奇妙，策士，全能的神，永在的父，和平的君。7 他的政权与平安必加增无穷，他必在大卫的宝座上，治理他的国，以公平公义使国坚定稳固，从今直到永远。万军之耶和华的热心，必成就这事。

- So, what we have just read says that in this moment there is darkness, and then, there is this proclamation, that light will be seen again. 所以，我們剛剛讀的就是，那裡有黑暗，然後，有一個宣告，光要再次被看見。
  - Light will come. 光要到來。
  - There will be a child. 有一個孩子要來。
  - And there will be Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. 將會有希望，和平，喜樂和愛。
  - There's darkness. 有黑暗。
    - Then there is, this child. 然後，有一個嬰孩。

- Born. 降生。
- Imagine the anticipation. 想像一下這預言。
- Here people have been living in relative darkness and confusion and there is this promise of a child. 人們生活在相對黑暗和混亂中，然後有一個許諾要有一個孩子。
  - That is what this season, that is what Advent is all about. 這就是關於這個季節，這就是關於基督降臨節的意義。
- Advent is about anticipating the birth of Christ. 聖降月是關於基督降生的預言。
  - It's about longing, desire, that which is yet to come. 這是關於對那還沒有來臨的渴望和期盼。
- That which isn't here yet. 然而，他還沒有到來。
  - And so we wait, expectantly. 所以我們等待，期盼。
    - Together. 大家在一起。
    - With an ache. 帶着痛苦。
  - Because all is not right. 因為一切都不對。
    - Something is missing. 缺失了一些事。
- There was an old man named Simeon standing in the temple on a particular day. 在特別的一天，有一個叫做西面的老人站在聖殿裡。
  - He sees this mother walk in the room, carrying this child. 他看見一位婦人走進來，抱着一個孩子。
  - He rushes to her. 他趕緊走到她面前。
  - He takes the child in his arms. 他伸手把孩子接過來。
  - And then, he rejoices that now he can die because what he'd been waiting for actually arrived. 然後，他為他一直等待的已經來到，他終可以閉眼而歡喜。
- There was God. 那是神。
  - There was chaos, darkness. 那裡有混亂，黑暗。
    - and with a WORD, there was LIGHT. 伴隨着神的話，那裡有光。
- Simeon's response makes significantly more sense when we read the opening verses of the book of John, in the New Testament. 如果我們讀了新約聖經中約翰福音中開篇的話，我們就會更加明白西面的反應。

**John 1:1-14 1 約翰福音 1:1-14**

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

1太初有道，道与神同在，道就是神。2 这道太初与神同在。3 万物是借着他造的，凡被造的，没有一样不是借着他造的。4 生命在他里头，这生命就是人的光。5 光照在黑暗里，黑暗却不接受光。6 有一个人，是从神那里差来的，名叫约翰。7 这人来，为要作见证，就是为光作见证，叫众人因他可以信。8 他不是那光，乃是要为光作见证。9 那光是真光，照亮一切生在世上的人。10 他在世界，世界也是借着他造的，世界却不认识他。11 他到自己的地方来，自己的人倒不接待他。12 凡接待他的，就是信他名的人，他就赐他们权柄，作神的儿女。13 这等人不是从血气生的，不是从情欲生的，也不是从人意生的，乃是从神生的。14 道成了肉身，住在我们中间，充充满满的有恩典有真理。我们也见过他的荣光，正是父独生子的荣光。

- Do you see what I see? 你看到我所看到的了嗎？
- We have God, creating. 我們有神，在創造。
  - And there is the word. 有道(神的話)。
  - And that word is the light of the world. 這道是世界之光。
- It's like turning on a light in a dark room. 這像是在一個黑暗的房間打開燈。
  - Life is illuminated. 生命被照亮了。
- And the chaos, and worry, and suffering, and confusion, and pain - are driven out. 然後混亂，憂慮，苦難，迷亂，還有痛苦，都被驅逐掉了。
- We've been waiting, in the dark. 我們在黑暗中等待。
  - We live lives of desperation. 我們生活中絕望的生活裡。
  - We grasp for purpose and meaning. 我們試圖抓住使命和意義。
  - We hunger for answers to our questions. 我們渴望我們的問題能有答案。
  - We long for comfort from the pain. 我們渴望我們的痛苦得到安慰。
    - And the light, has come. 然後，光到來了。
- This is a story about us, humanity, in our longing, having an answer to the deepest longings and darkest places of lives. 這是關於我們人類的故事，在我們的期盼中，在最黑暗處得到對於生命最深處渴望的回答。
- *Illustration: Ironman* 故事:鐵人三項
  - *Some of you may have heard that two Sunday's ago I was competing, or should I just say, COMPLETING an Ironman.* 你們中的一些人可能聽說了我在兩週前在進行，或者說是完成，鐵人三項競賽
    - *2.4 Mile Swim* 2.4英里游泳
    - *112 Mile Bike* 112英里自行車
    - *Marathon* 馬拉松
      - *Typical Sunday.* 通常是週日
      - *12 and half hours of continues racing.* 12個半小時的比賽。
  - *AND it was one of the most interesting things I've ever done from a physical, emotional, and mental standpoint.* 是我做過的在體力，情緒，和心態上最有趣的事情之一。
  - *There were times when I was euphoric.* 有時我欣喜若狂
  - *There were times when I was determined.* 有時我下定決心
  - *There were times when I was discouraged.* 有時我很沮喪

- *All the things...* 各樣的情況
- *BUT there was one moment when it was dark - and mean that both literally and metaphorically.* 但是有一個時刻是黑暗的——即是確實的也是比喻的。
- *Ironically it was the LAST Mile of the course.* 諷刺的是，這是比賽的最後一英里。
- *The sun had been down for a while, and we were running under streetlights.* 太陽已經下山一段時間了，我們在路燈下奔跑。
  - *But when we got into the final stretch those that were there was no light.* 但在最後一段路卻沒有光線了。
    - *And there were no fans.* 沒有粉絲觀眾。
      - *And in this particular moment, there were just two other racers with me.* 在這一個時刻，我旁邊只有兩個競賽者。
      - *And A L L we could hear was the sound of our own feet on the asphalt.* 我們能聽到的只是我們的腳踏在瀝青上的聲音。
- *This was one of the hardest moments...and it lasted f o r e v e r.* 這是最困難的時候，而且好像永遠不會過去。

- *But then, we rounded a corner, still in the dark, but we could hear the roar of the crowd, and the voice of the announcer, and we could see the glow of lights around the next turn.* 但隨後，我們轉過一個拐角，仍然在黑暗中，但我們可以聽到人群的歡呼聲和播音員的聲音，我們可以看到下一個轉彎周圍的燈光。
- *And then ONE MORE TURN and we were suddenly IN THE LIGHT, and the fans were cheering, and the announcer is calling my name.* 然後再轉一圈，我們突然出現在燈光下，粉絲們在歡呼，播音員在喊我的名字。
  - *Here it is.* 就是這個場景

PICTURE: IRONMAN FINISH. 圖片：鐵人三項完賽。

- Can I just tell you that there has never been an adrenaline rush like going from the dark final mile to the lighted finishing chute of an Ironman. 我能不能告訴你，從來沒有像從黑暗的最後一英里到鐵人三項賽的燈光終點線那樣腎上腺素激增。
- You and I no longer have to live in the darkness. 我們不必在生活在黑暗中
  - There is a light. 有一盞燈
  - We can see. 我們可以看到
  - We can breath. 我們可以呼吸
  - There is hope. 有盼望
  - There is life. 有生命
  - This is what we've waited for. 是我們所等待的
  - This is what we were expecting. 這是我們所期待的。
  - This is what our hearts have been longing for. 這是我們心所想的。
  - The light of the world has come. 世界的光已經到來。

- But it isn't because of a shift of circumstances, or then end of hardship. 但這不是因為環境的轉變，或者困難的結束。

- it's not because THAT stretch of the road is behind us. • 這不是因為那段路已經跑完了。

- No. This is deeper than that. 不是。而是更深的。

- This light can come on the darkest of nights and meets us in the ache. 光在最黑的夜中到來，在我們的苦痛中和我們相遇。

- *Illustration: Naimos* 插圖: Naimos

- *A few years ago, I was up early on a Sunday, putting the finishing touches on a message that I was preaching on suffering, when I got a phone call.* 幾年前，一個星期天我起得很早，正在對我關於苦難的講道信息做最後的潤色，這時我接到了一個電話。

- *One of my longest friends was literally calling me from the emergency room where he had suddenly lost his five year-old son Mason, to the very disease that nearly took my daughter's life a few years earlier.* 我最久的朋友之一從急診室打電話給我，他突然失去了他五歲的兒子梅森，因為幾年前這種疾病差點奪走了我女兒的生命。

- *He called me.* 他給我打電話。

- *Right then.* 就在那時。

- *Right there.* 就在那裡。

- *I still don't understand the timing. And that sermon, that day, was one I will never forget.* 我還是不明白時機是怎麼安排的。那個佈道，那天，是我永遠不會忘記的。

- *But what was equally unforgettable was the sound of my friend's voice.* 但同樣令人難忘的是我朋友的聲音

- *The tragedy.* 悲痛

- *The shock.* 震驚

- *But then, somehow, strength.* 但，同時，也有力量。

- *Some way, amidst the suffering and hardship, he was finding strength - because of Christ.* 在苦難和艱辛中，他仍在基督中找到力量。

- In the darkest of nights, we wait. 在最黑暗的夜裏，我們等候。

- We long for something to resolve the desperation - but it isn't a something, it's a someone. 我們渴望某種東西來解決這樣的絕望——但我們所需要的不是某種東西，而是某個人。

- It is THE one. 就是他了。

- It is Jesus. 就是耶穌。

- And he can enter whatever dark moment you find yourself in. 而他可以介入任何你所處的黑暗時刻。

- See, here's the thing about a room like this that can be really deceiving. 所以，這樣一個房間

有迷惑人的地方。

- It's real easy to look around the room and imagine that that person, her life, his life, "I'll bet it's not like mine. I bet they don't know the kind of dark nights I've sat through." 環顧房間四周設想著那個人，她的人生，他的人生，“我敢肯定不像是我的。我敢肯定他們不知道我所經歷的噩夢般的夜晚。”
  - But if Taylor Swift we ALL have sleepless nights. 但如果泰勒·斯威夫特這樣，我們都有這樣的無眠之夜。
- But in all sincerity...we ALL navigate, sometimes weekly, sometimes DAILY, moments of darkness that Jesus is begging to enter into. 可完全出於真誠地說...我們都航行在，有時每週，有時每天，那耶穌請求進入的黑暗時刻。
- The world was, and is, waiting in the dark - and in that darkness he has come. 世界曾是，現今也是在黑暗中等候 - 也是耶穌曾降臨過的黑暗。
- And he'll do the same for you. 而他為你會做同樣的事。
  - Right now. 現在。
- This season, the season of advent, confronts this corrosive idea that insists God has abandoned the world. 這一季節，聖降臨月，勇敢面對那神放棄了這個世界的腐蝕性的說法。
  - It reminds us that hope is real and someone is coming. 它提醒我們盼望是真實的，而那位正在來臨。
- Advent sneaks up on our cynicism and takes it by surprise with the hope and announcement of a new day. 聖降臨月悄悄蓋過我們的玩世不恭，然後出人意料地帶著希望宣告那新的一天。
- It's here, it's now, when we invite the light of the world to enter into the deepest places of cynicism, or bitterness, or hardness and drive out the darkness. 在這裡，在此刻，當我們邀請那世界的光進入到我們玩世不恭，或者苦毒的最深處，徹底驅除黑暗。
- There's something about this season where we open up. 當我們打開自己這個季節就有不同。
  - We soften up. 我們心會軟化。
    - And we turn our hearts in the direction of that day. 而在那一日我們轉變了我們心所屬的方向。
  - That day when the cry of a baby pierces the night, and we, surrounded by shepherds and angels and everybody in between, celebrate the moment that unto us a child is born. 那一日一個嬰兒的哭聲穿透夜晚，而我們，被從牧羊人到天使的各種人環繞，來慶祝那為我們而降生的一個嬰兒。

#### Communion Intro 聖餐的簡介

- We're going to close today by taking communion together... 我們今天以一起領聖餐來結束。
- But before we participate in this, we're going to take some time to reflect and consider what it means, personally, that this moment we read about in Isaiah came to pass, and

what that means for the days that lie ahead of us. 在我們開始之前，我們先花一點時間來反思思考它的意義，對自己的意義，在我們在以賽亞書裡讀到的這個時刻的意義，和對我們將來的日子的意義。

- I'm going to ask Thunder to come back and sing, and lets take this time to consider and reflect. 我現在請三德上來帶我們歌唱，讓我們在心裡思考反省。

Reflection/Song (Thunder) 反思/敬拜曲（三德）

- Communion 聖餐

Benediction 祝禱

- May you be men and women who, in the darkest nights, experience the brightest of lights, the person of Jesus, entering in with you. 願弟兄姊妹，在最黑暗的時刻，經歷到最光耀的光照，耶穌本人進入到你裡面。阿門。