

Fall Launch  
September 9/12  
The Rhythms of Shalom - Jeremiah 29

秋季發行會  
平安的節律 —— 耶利米書第29章  
布萊德·威廉 牧師

**Worship 敬拜**

**Shelter Music video:** shelter, a safe place, a covering, a haven; a community of creatives coming together with unique stories, songs, and art to bring glory to God and hope for the city. Like a light of shelter beacons a wanderer in the night, we invite creative hearts and hands within and beyond these walls. We extend our hands and invitation to cover artists in our city and say, come, dwell with us in the shelter of the most high, so that we can belong and create in this community. Shelter. 庇護所音樂視頻：庇護所，一個安全的地方，一個遮蓋，一個避風港；一個創意的社區以獨特的故事、音樂和藝術聚集在一起，為要榮耀神，為要這座城市帶來希望。就像夜晚的一盞庇護所的燈塔為流浪者指明道路一樣，我們邀請牆內外創意的心靈和雙手，我們伸出我們的手來邀請來我們城市的藝術家們，我們說，來吧，與我們一起住在至高者的庇護所中，讓我們我們在這個社區中歸屬和創造。庇護所。

**Again + Again 一次又一次**

庇護所音樂(B4church 音樂事工)原創歌曲，關於耶穌不放棄的愛，以及我們對這長闊高深的愛的回應。歡迎大家在B4教會主日線上聚會視頻或各大音樂平台欣賞。

**我在這裡 Here I Am**

詞：鄭戀柔 Tiffany M. Cheng 曲：游智婷 Sandy Yu © 2020 Stream of Praise Music

[Verse]

我在這裡 深切尋求祢  
每個清晨夜晚 不住地尋求  
我在這裡 聆聽祢心意  
親愛主耶穌 渴望歡迎祢降臨

[Chorus]

主耶穌 我的耶穌  
我心充滿歡喜 因為我有耶穌在我心

主耶穌 我的耶穌

我心充滿感恩 因為我有耶穌在我心

[Bridge]

我在這裡 我在這裡 我回應祢的愛  
我在這裡 我在這裡 耶穌  
我在這裡 我在這裡 我回應祢的愛  
我在這裡 我在這裡 耶穌

多種族領袖禱告：

- 中文：為著建造社區禱告
- 韓文：為著神的豐盛供應感恩
- 葡萄牙文：祝福我們所在城市的禱告

## How Great Thou Art 你真偉大

主啊我神！我每逢舉目觀看，  
你手所造一切奇妙大工；  
看見星宿，又聽到隆隆雷聲，  
你的大能遍滿了宇宙中。

當我想到，神竟願差他兒子，  
降世捨命，我幾乎不領會；  
主在十架，甘願背我的重擔，  
流向捨身，為要赦免我罪。

當主再來，歡呼聲響徹天空，  
何等喜樂，主接我回天家；  
我要跪下，謙恭的崇拜敬奉，  
並要頌揚，神啊你真偉大。

副歌：  
我靈歌唱，讚美救主我神，  
你真偉大！何等偉大！  
我靈歌唱，讚美救主我神，  
你真偉大！何等偉大！

### Message 信息

#### • Offering 奉獻

• I don't know if you noticed this, but traffic picked up this week. 我不知道你們注意到沒有，這週的交通又開始繁忙起來了。

• And social media posts shifted from bickering about the pandemic to back to school posts. 社交媒體也從為疫情爭吵轉回到學校。

• Even though our days are still warm, the early morning feels a little different. 雖然現在白天還很暖和，但是清晨的感覺已經有點不同了。

• In my neighborhood, some leaves are starting to show signs of change. 在我住的小區，有一些樹的葉子也開始變色了。

• AND, the pumpkin spice latte is once again available at Starbucks. 還有就是，在星巴克，現在又開始賣南瓜風味的拿鐵了。

• In a week and half we will officially enter this season called "Fall". 再過一周半，我們就算正式進入秋天了。

• Fall is an interesting time, because it seems to mark our return to something we call 'regular'. 秋天是一個有趣的季節，因為它是我們回到所謂“常規”的標誌。

• I'm avoiding using the word NORMAL for obvious reasons. 因為大家都知道的原因，我這裡在迴避用“正常”這個詞。

• But I can use the word REGULAR. 而是用“常規”這個詞。

• This is when the weekend trips and random trips subside and life begins to take on more structure. 因為週末和假期的旅遊開始減少，我們的生活開始回到原有的作息規律中。

• Alarm clocks go off a bit earlier. 鬧鐘響得比以前早了。

- Buses roll through neighborhoods. 校車又開始出現在小區裡。
- And our hearts settle in a bit. 我們的心也安定了一點。
- I love Fall. 我喜歡秋天。
- So I was pretty thrilled when our team approached me several months ago and said, “What if we did a FALL LAUNCH?” 所以我非常興奮，當我的團隊在幾個月以前和我說，“我們要不要來一個秋季發行會”？
- What if we took one week to ramp things up and mark the ‘return to regular’, here at B4? 我們要不要用一周來集中各項事工和活動，也使這個時間成為B4教會“回到常規”的標誌？
- What a great idea, right? 這是個多好的主意，不是嗎？
- So, in one of our planning meetings someone suggested we step aside from our Series and do a message that would cast vision for the Fall. 所以，在我們的一次規劃會議裡，有人建議我們離開我們的系列講道，在秋天進行一次關於願景的講道。
- Something that set the direction for the days ahead. 一次為未來指明方向的講道。
- And, then it was suggested I teach on a particular passage. 這就意味著我要做一次特別的講道。
- Now, normally I like to pick my own passage but the one that was suggested happens to be one of the most significant scriptures in my life. 通常來講，我會自己選一個我想傳遞的信息，但是這一次，我所得到的建議恰恰是聖經裡那段在我的生命中影響至深的章節。
- One that has defined so much of how I see the world and what I do with my life. 那段聖經給了我太多的教導，對於我應當如何看待這個世界以及我應該怎樣過我的一生。
- So it was an easy decision. 所以這是一個容易下的決定。
- Fall launch is a great time to talk big vision. 秋天是最好的時機來談一下宏大的願景。
- And this is one the most defining passages in my life. 這段信息是我一生中最具教導的信息。
- Let me be clear. What we are going to be diving into today is quite possibly the most significant scripture to me as it relates to leadership in the local church for the last 15 years. 讓我說得更明白一些。我們今天要講的經文非常有可能是對我在過去的15年裡帶領地方教會的最重要的經文。
- But something happened in the lead up to today. 而且也一直影響到今天。
- See, I’ve always taken this Scripture and applied it at the 35,000 foot level. 看呀，我總是把這經文置於如此高的位置，好像是在三萬五千英尺鳥瞰。
- This is big picture stuff. 這是一幅很大的圖畫。
- This is big vision and about the larger things we do as a people together. 這是一個宏大的願景，是關於我們要在一起做的大事。
- But I came to a realization. 但是我回到現實。
- And it’s not an insignificant one. 現實並不能被忽略。
- What I didn’t see until recently is that this same passage of Scripture that has been a blueprint for my ministry, ALSO contains a blueprint for my personal life. 我直到最近才意識到這段經文不僅是我的事工的藍圖，也是我個人人生的藍圖。
- Not only THAT, but this personal blueprint, if you will, addresses a TROUBLING PRESENT

REALITY that we are facing. 不僅如此，這個個人的藍圖，也可以幫助我們面對充滿挑戰的現實。

- You see, if there's one thing I've noticed over the past year and a half, it's that our rhythms have been disrupted. 有一件事我意識到的是：在過去的一年半裡，我們的節律被打破了。
- There was a way that we did things; a way that things worked, that has been fragmented. 那是我們如何做事情，事情如何成就，這樣的節律被打破了。
- We got up, at certain times, on certain days, and we did, certain things certain ways. 我們起來，在特定的日子，特定的時間。我們做特定的事，以特定的方式。
- And it happened so regularly, so consistently, that we barely had to think about it. 這些是這樣按照常規，一直如此，以至於我們基本不用去想。
- And then, everything shifted. 然後突然，一切都轉換了。
- Everything changed. 一切都變了。
- And as hard as we tried to create normal experiences here, this pandemic took its toll on the rhythms of Christian community. 就像我們在這裡盡力地營造“正常”的感覺，疫情卻破壞了基督教社區的節律。
- Sure we've had thousands attend on-line... 當然，我們有上千人在進行網絡聚會...
- but when you're standing in a room like this one, the disparity between pre pandemic church, and now, is fairly obvious. 不過當你站在這樣的房間裡，現在和疫情前的差別還是很明顯的。
- I've even had a few friends be honest enough to say, "I kind of like this new normal. Watching from home, or tuning in from the coast, is kind of nice." 我有些朋友很誠實地告訴我，“我大概有點兒喜歡新的‘正常’。在家裡或者是從海邊參加網絡聚會，也挺不錯的。
- Another said, "We've been back once or twice, but it's hard getting back into the routine." 還有一些人說，我們回來聚會一次兩次，但是很難回到以前那樣的每週都來聚會了。
- Which, allow me to add, there are a LOT of legitimate reasons for ALL of this.

請容許我這樣說，他們這樣做都有著非常有道理的原因。

- There really are. 是這樣的。
- But, as someone who has spent his entire adult life believing for, contending for, and pouring himself out for this thing called the local church, it's also been disheartening. 只是，作為一個畢生信仰，努力，還把一生都奉獻給了這個叫做地方教會的人來講，這是令人沮喪的。
- Even frustrating. 甚至灰心喪氣的。
- Because I believe in what we do. 因為我相信我們所做的。

- And I believe in who we are. 我相信我們是誰。
- I believe that Jesus is the hope of our lives, and the hope of the world, AND I believe he gave us the church to D E L I V E R that hope. 我相信耶穌是我們人生的希望，是世界的希望，我相信他把教會賜給我們來把希望傳播開來。
- I believe that CHURCH matters. 我相信教會很重要。
- So, when it looks like, or feels like people are drifting. 所以，當看到或感到人們在慢慢的離開了；
- When I hear stories of folks whose lives have taken a turn in the wrong direction. 當我聽到有一些人的人生轉向錯誤的方向；
  - When I hear things coming from Christians that are clearly not Christlike; 當我聽到一些基督徒所做的事很明顯不像基督徒；
- And it COINCIDES with this DISRUPTION of Rhythm, something happens inside of me. 這些都和打破節律 那麼“巧合”，我的心充滿擔憂。
- There's a BURDEN that weighs heavy on me. 我的心情沉重，充滿負擔。
- So for the past few months, I've been wrestling with this reality and then BAM, our team suggests this passage, and I have this epiphany. 所以在過去的幾個月，我一直在和這樣的現實爭鬥，當我的團隊建議了這段經文，我有了頓悟的感覺。
- The same passage that has served as a large scale leadership guide has personal implications that specifically address this moment we are in. 這段同樣的經文在我帶領教會的指引上舉足輕重，同時也可以非常適當地運用在我們現今所面對的情況。
- This is SO good. And it's SOOO applicable to where we are right now, that I can barely contain myself. 真的很好，真的非常適用於我們現在的情況，我簡直是非常迫切地要告訴你們。
- I want to talk to you today about: 我今天所要講的是：

### **The Rhythms of Shalom** 平安的節律

- I want to talk to you about the regular patterns, the practices, the rhythms...that lead to a life of Shalom. 我要和你說的是有規律的形式，實踐，節律...引領生命進入平安。
- Shalom is that Hebrew word that speaks to human flourishing. 平安是一個希伯來詞語形容人的昌盛。
- It's a life of wholeness. 它是指生命的完全。
- It's Peace. 它是指平安。
- It's Things being the way they are supposed to be. 它是指事情按照它理應的樣子成就。
- See, surprisingly, you have far more control of the personal shalom you will experience than you ever imagined. 瞧，令人驚奇的是，你比你以為的有更大的主權來決定你是否經歷平安。
- And the rhythms we are about to look at together, will lead to a life of flourishing. 而我們

將要一起來查考的節律，將會引領進入生命的昌盛。

- A life of shalom. 一個有平安的生命。
- These are practical things. 這都是非常實際的做法。
- Consider them. 想它。
- Apply them. 運用它。
- If they're in your life you're probably experiencing shalom. 如果它在你的生命中，你是在經歷平安。
- If they're not, you're probably desperate for shalom. 如果它不在你的生命中，你會極其渴望平安。
- So. With that, I want you to turn to Jeremiah chapter 29. 帶著這樣的想法，我們一起把聖經翻到耶利米書第29章。
- An as you are turning to Jeremiah 29, allow me to give some historical context. 當你在翻聖經耶利米書第29章的時候，讓我來講一下相關的歷史背景。
- Jerusalem has been conquered and ransacked by the Babylonians. 耶路撒冷當時被巴比倫攻占並洗劫一空。
- The temple has been destroyed. 聖殿被毀。
- The unthinkable has happened. 一切從沒想過的都發生了。
- The place where heaven and earth meet has been reduced to rubble. 曾經像天堂一樣美麗的地方變成了廢墟。
- The young, the healthy, and the influential have been carried off to the wicked and worldly city of Babylon. 所有年輕的，健康的，有影響力的人都被擄去了邪惡的城市巴比倫。
- And they are now living there, in exile. 他們住在那裡，成為淪落的異鄉人。
- They are defeated. 他們被打敗了。
- They are traumatized. 他們身心受創。
- They are displaced beyond words. 他們流離失所，痛苦難言。
- Undoubtedly there is deep sense of desperation. 毋庸置疑，那是一種深切的絕望。
- And certainly questions are being raised. 人們會有很多問題。
- “We've lost our nation.” “我們失去了祖國。”
- “Is God still with us?” “神還和我們同在嗎？”
- “Do we have any sort of future?” “我們還會有未來嗎？”
- “How do we live as God's people in a city like Babylon?” “我們作為神的選民，怎麼能在巴比倫這樣的都市生活？”
- So God instructs Jeremiah to write them a letter. 所以，神通過耶利米給他們寫了一封信。
- And in the 29th chapter, God's purpose for them, and for us, becomes remarkably clear. 在第29章裡，神的旨意無論是對當時的他們，還是現在的我們，都是那樣的清楚。
- Let's read it together, and then, we'll unpack it together. 讓我們一起朗讀，然後，我們來一起查

考。

### Jeremiah 29:4-13

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord. 10 “For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

### 耶利米書 29:4-13

4 信上說：萬軍之耶和華—以色列的神對一切被擄去的（就是我使他們從耶路撒冷被擄到巴比倫的人）如此說：

5 你們要蓋造房屋，住在其中；栽種田園，吃其中所產的；

6 娶妻生兒女，為你們的兒子娶妻，使你們的女兒嫁人，生兒養女。在那裡生養眾多，不致減少。

7 我所使你們被擄到的那城，你們要為那城求平安，為那城禱告耶和華；因為那城得平安，你們也隨著得平安。

8 萬軍之耶和華—以色列的神如此說：不要被你們中間的先知和占卜的誘惑，也不要聽信自己所做的夢；

9 因為他們託我的名對你們說假預言，我並沒有差遣他們。這是耶和華說的。

10 耶和華如此說：為巴比倫所定的七十年滿了以後，我要眷顧你們，向你們成就我的恩言，使你們仍回此地。

11 耶和華說：我知道我向你們所懷的意念是賜平安的意念，不是降災禍的意念，要叫你們末後有指望。

12 你們要呼求我，禱告我，我就應允你們。

13 你們尋求我，若專心尋求我，就必尋見。

• So, let's start at beginning, because I think it speaks to how some of us are feeling right now. 讓我們從一開始看起，因為我感覺它正說出我們有些人現在的感受。

• Notice verse 4, it says, 第四節，說到，

**“To all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem.” “對一切被擄去的，就是我使他們從耶路撒冷被擄到巴比倫的人。”**

• This had to be quite a wakeup call. 這是對以色列人是一個大的驚醒。

• God reveals in this moment, that this disruption, this displacement is something he has orchestrated. 在這一刻神顯明說，以色列人的擄走，放逐是神計劃指揮的。

• HE carried them into exile. 是他放逐了以色列人。

• Not the Babylonians. 不是巴比倫人。

- Could that be? 是這樣嗎？
- Is that possible? 可能嗎？
- Let me ask the question: Could it be that there are disruptions in people's lives that land squarely within the scope and sequence of what God is doing in the world? 讓我問大家個問題：如果說人生活中的攪擾恰恰也屬於神對這世界的計劃範圍和順序裡的，有可能嗎？
- Is that possible? 可能嗎？
- Even right now? 即使現在嗎？

• If you look a few verses later, verse 11, he says, 如果大家看到幾節之後，11節，神說，

**“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”** 耶和華說，我知道我向你們所懷的意念，是賜平安的意念，不是降災禍的意念，要叫你們末後有指望。

• God is telling his people, who are displaced and disoriented, that he is still in control. 神在告訴他正在放逐的子民，是他在掌權。

• His promises still stand, and his love for them is undiminished. 他的應許還在，他對他們的愛不會泯滅。

• They are in his hands and his eye is on them - even during their exile. 他們在他的手中，他在注視著他們 - 即使是在放逐中。

• See, God does not see his corrective disruption of their lives—an event that they experience as catastrophic—to be at odds with their potential to flourish. 由此看出，即便以色列人認為這是災難的事情，神並不把以糾正他的子民的而攪亂他們的人生看成是與他們再次繁榮相抵觸的。

• So, he counsels them to continue trusting him, and embrace what might be called healthy rhythms of flourishing people who experience shalom, both individually and corporately. 所以，神勸戒他們繼續信任他，接受神以個人或者集體的方式，賜給有神的榮光的子民繁榮昌盛時應有的節奏。

• Let's take a more detailed look at the text: 我們再仔細讀這一節。

• First he says, in verse 5... 首先神說，第五節。

### 1. **“BUILD HOUSES AND LIVE IN THEM;...”** (v5) 你們要蓋造房屋住在其中。

• God is telling his people to dream, plan, and build “beyond” the status quo. 神在告訴他的子民去遙想，計劃比現狀更長遠的事。

• This is where you live. 這是你們居住的地方。

• This is your new home. 是你們的新家園。

• Live like it. 安居下來。

• He doesn't want them on the outside looking in. 他不是讓他們從外面觀看陌生之地。

• See, up until this point they had camped themselves outside the city, and they were

refusing to really LIVE in that place. 我們知道，直到這時候以色列人還是寄居在陌生城市的外圍，他們抗拒生活在那個地方。

- They despised it. 他們鄙視這個城市。
- So they lived like it. 所以生活也體現如此。
- And God says, “Make this your home.” 而神說，“把這裡當成你們的家園。”

• *Illustration: New York* 舉例：紐約市

• *When Cheri and I moved to New York City in our 30’s, we understood what God was saying in Jeremiah 29.* 當雪莉和我30歲左右搬到紐約時，我們覺得是神在跟我們說耶利米書29章。

• *And by the way, there probably wasn’t another city in America at the time that more resembled Babylon.* 而當時，可能在美國沒有其他城市比紐約更像古時的巴比倫。

• *But when we moved there, we made it our home.* 可我們搬到哪裡，我們把它當家。

• *We learned the streets and the systems.* 我們識別街道和交通系統。

• *We engaged the culture.* 我們接觸當地文化。

• *We supported the schools.* 我們支持學校。

• *We served the community.* 我們事奉市區。

• *We ‘built houses’ if you will.* 你可以說我們在建造家園。

• *And I’ll never forget one night when a friend and were talking and he said, “I’ve lived here for 16 years, and you’ve lived here for 16 months, and you know this city better than I do.”* 我從不會忘記一天晚上，當一位朋友說話談起到，“我在這裡居住了16年，而你們在這裏才住16個月，你們了解這座城市比我了解的還多。”

• That doesn’t mean it was easy. 這不是說是一件容易的事。

• It was just what we were asked. 這卻是神告訴我們的事。

• Here’s what I want to help you with. 以下也是我建議大家的。

• I know a lot has changed. 我知道很多情況都變了。

• And maybe you didn’t move anywhere. 而你也許並沒有搬家。

• But things are different. 但事情不一樣了。

• There’s a chance you may feel like a stranger. 有時候你會覺得像是個陌生人。

• You may feel displaced. 你可能覺得不知所措。

• You may even be a bit disillusioned. 甚至會覺得不正常。

• But God tells his people, his displaced people, to EMBRACE what he has for them in the place in which they find themselves. 但神告訴他的子民，他的流離失所的子民，就在他們所處的地方迎接神賜給他們的一切。

• He understood the strangeness of that command. 神明白這個指示的怪異。

• He knew this wasn’t what they expected. 神知道這也不是他的子民期望的。

• And here’s the ultimate irony. 而最諷刺的是，

• The people of Israel were called to be distinct. 以色列人受呼召成為特殊的。

• A different kind of people, living in a different, more godly place. 不一樣的人群，居住在不一樣的更神聖的地區。

- But they had pushed against the boundaries of that distinction, embracing their neighbor's idolatry. 可他們卻拋卻了他們的特殊，接納他們周邊人的那些偶像。
- So, After repeated warnings, God did something ironic. 所以一遍遍的警告之後，神行使出諷刺性的事。
- He took them into the very heart of their idolatry in order to cure them of it—to Babylon, both a real and figurative place. 他把他的子民放逐在他們的偶像的中心地帶，一邊醫治他們 - 就是巴比倫，即是真實的又有代表性的地方。
- This is your new home. 這是你們的新家。
- And your FAITH is going to grow...HERE. 而你們的信念會增長，在這裏。
- Withdrawal was not an option. 放棄不是一個選擇。
- And it isn't for us, either. 對我們也不是。
- Jeremiah's letter makes abundantly clear, as God's people, we are to live, work, and play within the mess. 耶利米所寫表現得非常明確，作為神的子民，我們是要在這混亂中生活，工作，並放鬆。
- Which is why Rhythm number one is making this your home. 也就是神的節奏一，把這裡成為你們的家園。
- You flourishing is connected to your embrace of the place you're in. 你的繁榮與你對你所居之地的接納相關。
- But then he continues: 然後神繼續：

## 2. "...PLANT GARDENS AND EAT THEIR PRODUCE." (v5) 栽種田園喫其中所產的。

- *I'm no farmer.* 我不是農業者。
- *But I do know a few things that it requires.* 但我確實知道幾件相關的事。
- *It requires planting.* 事農要求種植。
- *It requires watering.* 要求灌溉。
- *And it requires patience.* 也要求耐心。
- (Which probably why I'm not a farmer!) (這也許正是我不能事農的原因)
- But when the Lord tells them this he's saying it's going to take some time effort. 當神告訴他們這些時他是在指出這需要時間和付出。
- But make the effort. 需要努力。
- And take the time. 要花時間。
- And again, he challenges the rhythm of our age which says we need it to be "our way, right away." 還有，他挑戰我們當今的節奏，我們總是著重「我們的方式，立刻執行。」
- He challenges the notion that we get instant results. 神對抗我們總要得到即刻結果的觀念。
- Flourishing, it turns out, takes time. 繁榮，往往是，需要花時間的。
- *I'm always challenged by the example of William Wilberforce, whom many of you have heard of.* 我總被威廉·威爾伯福斯的榜樣鞭策，你們很多人也許知道他。

- *He was a British politician who became a famous abolitionist around 1787. 他是英國的一位政治家，1787年左右開始主張廢除奴隸。*

- *But what most people fail to realize is that it wasn't for 20 years of hard work, that his first act against slavery would be passed and that it was another 26 years until slavery was abolished - 46 years of labor. 但很多人可能不知道的是，並不只是20年的辛苦工作，他的第一個廢奴隸法案才通過的，而是再加26年，知道奴隸廢除之後 - 整整46年的勞苦。*

- *And somewhere, in the toil, and the dust, the water, and the mud - in THE WORK of planting and waiting, and harvesting, we find flourishing. 而其中，在一片煩擾，一片灰土，水和泥濘中 - 在開始建設，等候，收穫中，我們發現而來的繁榮。*

- *So Rhythm number 2 says, "God's provision is received by those who will plant, and water, and wait." 所以節奏二說的是，“神的賜與是讓那些撒種，澆灌，然後等待的人得到的。*

- *Which brings us to the third. 這也就帶給我們第三點。*

### **3. "...; MULTIPLY THERE, AND DO NOT DECREASE." (v6) 在那裡生養眾多、不至減少。**

- *No, God is not simply telling us to have lots of kids. 不是的，神不僅僅告訴我們生養眾多。*

- *There is a consistent biblical truth that life always comes from life. 一直在經文中存在的真理是生命是從生命而來。*

- *This runs throughout the Scripture's record of God's story. 這貫穿 體現在被稱為神的故事的聖經中。*

- *And the emphasis under the Old Covenant was on physical life; on children; on lineage. 而舊約裡強調的是物質生活，子嗣，家族傳承。*

- *God designed his redemptive plan to include passing God's goodness and promises from generation to generation, multiplying them in the process. 神指定的他的救贖計劃包括把神的美好和應許一代代的傳下去，而且在傳承中加倍生長。*

- *But when we fast forward to the new covenant, that charge changes from making babies to making disciples. 但當我們翻到新約，這一傳承從子嗣繁衍變換成教徒的增長。*

- *Multiplying disciples becomes the emphasis. 增加門徒成為了重點。*

- *Which in simple terms, means that you're pouring your life into the life of another. 簡單來說，就是要把你的生命注入到他人的人生中。*

- *Do you know what makes the dead sea dead? 你們知道是什麼讓死海毫無生機？*

- *There's no outlet. 是沒有出口。*

- *The water goes in. 水流進去。*

- *But it doesn't go out - except through evaporation. 但不流出來，除了蒸發。*

- *And what's left behind is a toxic level of salinity. 然後留下來的就是讓人無法承受的含鹽量。*

- *Here's what I've noticed about flourishing followers of Jesus. 我注意到有關耶穌的跟隨者繁榮的特性。*

- *There's always an outlet. 他們總是有精神出口。*

- *There's someone they are pouring themselves into. 他們把他們自己注入到某個人的生命裡。*

- *They serve with kids, or youth. 他們事奉孩子，青少年。*

- They meet folks for coffee. 他們和他人喝咖啡聊天。
- They join teams or serve in ways that serve others. 他們組成團隊或者服事他人。
- They multiply themselves. 他們壯大他們自己。
- Now, Number 4, in which we find a twist. 第四點，這裡我們發現一個轉折。

#### 4. **"BUT SEEK THE WELFARE OF THE CITY WHERE I HAVE SENT YOU.." (v7)** **4. "我所使你們被擄到的那城，你們要為那城求平安.." (v7)**

- I want you to notice the first word of that sentence. "BUT" 我要你們注意到這句經文的第一個詞。"但是"
- It's a contrasting conjunction. 這是一個反轉的連詞。
- It's as if God is saying, "I know you know all of this other stuff. It sounds a lot like things I've said before, but now I'm going to lay something different on you." 就好像神在說，"我知道其他的東西你們都知道。因為聽起來跟我以前說的很多事情相似，但是這裡我要說一些不同的話了。"
- So much of the Law—while making loving and considerate provision for outsiders—was about separation. 很多的律法——雖然對外邦人也做了有愛心和考量的供應——是關於分離。
- It was designed to keep Israel holy, set apart and distinct for God's purposes. 它的設計是使以色列人不同於別民，分別開來為著神的目的。
- They were never supposed to be cruel to outsiders, but they were to remain set apart. 以色列人從來不應該對外邦人殘忍，但是他們應該要分別開來。
- But here, in Babylon, as a set-apart people in a place, they were to actively pursue the flourishing of a thoroughly pagan, alien culture. 但是這裡，在巴比倫，作為在一個地方要分別開來的人，他們卻要積極追求一個異教的文化的繁榮。
- In fact, God instructs them that their welfare is tied directly to that of their pagan neighbors. • They are to be "for the city." 事實上，神說他們的平安和他們異教鄰居的平安直接相關
- And their prosperity is tied to the city. 他們的繁盛也與城市相連。
- So God asks, "Do you want to flourish? Then quit despising your city, and instead love it. Be for it. Seek its prosperity." 所以神問，"你想要繁盛嗎？那就停止鄙視你的城市，而是要愛它，為它求平安。"
- That's why we, as a church, are "For the City" because as this city prospers, so will we. 這是為什麼我們作為一個教會，是"為著城市"，因為當城市繁榮，我們也如此。

- Now, number 5: 好的，第五點：

#### 5. **"...DO NOT LISTEN TO THE DREAMS THAT THEY DREAM." (v8)**

**"...不要被你們中間的先知和占卜的誘惑，也不要聽信自己所做的夢。"(v8)**

- There was a problem in Israel during the exile. 在以色列被擄的時候有一個問題。

- There were people of influence who were telling a story that undermined the story of God. 有一些影響力的人在說一個故事，而這個故事是削弱神的故事的。
- They even used the right language. 他們竟然還用了對的話語。
- They tapped into the right emotions. 他們挑起了對的情緒。
- And they told people, 'THIS is what God wants.' 他們告訴人們，“這是神所要的。”
- Except it wasn't 但，這一切卻是不正確的。
- In fact, what they were telling them was the EXACT OPPOSITE of what God has said will lead to TRUE flourishing. 事實上，他們告訴人們的與神告訴以色列民他們怎樣能夠繁榮的話正好相反。
- They are selling a false bill of goods. 他們是賣假貨的。
- So God is telling them, "Quit listening to all of these voices, and listen to MINE." 所以神告訴以色列人，“不要被你們中間的先知和占卜的誘惑，也不要聽信自己所做的夢。”
- Which brings up a good question. "Whose dreams are you dreaming? Or whose voice are you listening to? 這帶來一個好問題。“你所做的是誰的夢呢？或者，你所聽的是誰的聲音呢？”
- Could it be that our lack of experience of true shalom is that we dreaming the wrong dreams, because we've listened to the wrong voices? 有沒有可能我們缺乏真正平安的經歷的原因是在我們在做錯誤的夢，因為我們在聽錯誤的聲音？
- I've had two conversations this past week that relate to this, and it connect to our final rhythm, that I'll get to in a moment. 我在過去的一週有兩個對話是跟這個有關的，也跟我們的最終的節律有聯繫，我接下來會講到這個。
- The first might ruffle some feathers, but it's a real concern, and so I'll voice it. 第一個可能會惹惱一些人，但是是一個確實要關心的事情，所以我決定在這裡說。
- A friend said this simple sentence, he said, "I think people listen to Tucker Carlson or Anderson Cooper more than they listen to Jesus." 一個朋友說了這樣一句簡單的話，“我認為人們聽塔克卡爾森或安德森庫珀的聲音比聽耶穌的多。”
- And the simple truth is, he may be right. 而事實是，他說這話很有可能是對的。
- I'm interested to know what would happen if people spent even the same amount of time reading their Bibles and praying as they do listening to, reading, or watching, the news. 我很有興趣知道如果人們花與聽讀和看新聞同樣的時間讀聖經和禱告會怎麼樣。
- The second was with a friend and colleague who told me about a number of people he personally knows who have recently made MAJOR life decisions. 第二個對話是跟一位朋友和同事，他告訴我他所認識的一些人最近做了生命中非常重大的一些決定。
- These are close friends and followers of Jesus. 這些是我很近的朋友和耶穌的跟隨者。
- And he observed, he said, "Not one of them shared a 'Faith' story." 他觀察到，且這樣說，“沒有一個人分享了一個有關信心的故事。”
- Not one of them said they'd prayed. 沒有人說他們曾經為此事禱告。
- Not one of them said they'd sought Jesus. 沒有人說他們曾經為此事尋求神。
- Not one of them heard from God. 沒有人聽到神的聲音。

- He told me, “It was all based on ideology, not Jesus.” 他告訴我，“他們所做的都是基於意識形態，而不是耶穌。”
- And then he said something I couldn’t shake, “Are we the last people of faith?” 然後他說了一句我印象深刻的話，“我們是最後有信心的人了嗎？” • God says, “Don’t listen to the dreams they dream.” 神說，“不要聽信自己所做的夢。”
- That’s an ACTUAL Rhythm he’s prescribing. 祂其實是在開一個真正的節律的藥方。
- Turn off the voices. 關掉那些聲音。
- *I’m so challenged by this that I recently removed all the news apps off my phone and I bought this thing called an alarm clock and I started charging my phone in another room, because I want God’s voice to drown out the rest.* 我對此感到非常挑戰，以至於我最近從手機上刪除了所有新聞應用程序，我買了一個叫鬧鐘的東西，然後我開始在另一個房間給手機充電，因為我希望上帝的聲音淹沒其它的聲音。
- Which brings us to the final Rhythm: 這帶我們來到最後的節律。

## 6. “YOU WILL SEEK ME AND FIND ME, WHEN YOU SEEK ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART.” (v13) 你們尋求我，若專心尋求我，就必尋見。(v13)

- It turns out the best way to turn down the volume of the other voices is to up the voice of God. 減低生命中其它雜音最好的辦法就是調大神的聲音。
- To seek him, with ALL of your heart. 來全心的尋求祂。
- I know I mentioned this earlier, but I think the church, the gathering of the church, is a gift given to us by Jesus, through which we seek God, together. 我知道我早些聽到過這個，但是我認為教會，和教會的聚會，是一個耶穌給我們的禮物，通過這個禮物我們一起來尋求神。
- We were made to gather and worship together. 我們被造就是要一起聚集來敬拜神的。
- In fact, National Geographic’s Blue Zone research project recently discovered that gathering regularly in faith-based communities added an average of 14 years to life expectancy. 事實上，國家地理雜誌的藍帶研究計畫最近發現在信仰社區有規律的聚會為人們增加14年的壽命。
- But it goes beyond adding a few years of life to your expectancy. 但這比增加幾年生命的年限要更深遠。
- It’s the quality of those years. 這是關於時間的質量。
- It’s the flourishing of those years. 和你在這些時間生命的興盛。
- There’s something about THIS. 聚會是有一些很特別的東西的。
- There’s something about communal worship that does something inside the human soul that’s unlike anything else. 社區的敬拜在人類靈魂的內心所做的事情是別的活動所不能的。

- It takes half hearted people and turns them into whole hearted seekers. 它把半心半意的人們變成全心全意的尋求者。
- I you want to flourish, seek God. 如果你想要興盛, 尋求神。
- Seek first HIS kingdom. 先來求祂的國。
- And all that other stuff? 其他的事情呢?
- It'll work itself out. 都會加給你。

• These are rhythms that lead to flourishing: 這些是引向興盛的節律:

- Build Homes 蓋造房屋
- Plant Gardens. 栽種田園
- Multiply, Don't decrease. 生養眾多
- Seek the Peace of the city. 為城求平安
- Don't dream the wrong dreams. 不要聽信錯誤的夢
- Seek God, and Find God. 尋求神, 找到神。

• That's what we want for you as individuals, and it's what we are pursuing as church, collectively. 這是我們想要你作為個人得著的, 也是我們作為一個教會追求的。

• In fact there's a story that has emerged out of B4 over the past year that I think exemplifies these rhythms on both the corporate and individual level. 事實上, 在去年B4的一個故事很好的體現了這些節律在群體和個人的層面上。

• And I want to share this story with you, by watching this together. 我希望跟你分享這個故事, 讓我們一起來看下面的影片。

**(POD VIDEO)** 豆莢事工影片。

- I couldn't be any more proud of our church. 我非常為我們的教會驕傲。
- And I couldn't be any more excited for the future that God has for us, together. 我很為神

要帶我們一起進入的未來興奮。

## **Benediction** 祝禱

May you be men and women who build homes and plant gardens. May you multiply yourself in the place that God has carried you. May you seek the peace of our city. May you stop listening to the dreams that other people dream. May you seek God with your whole heart. In Jesus name, Amen! 願你們是蓋造房屋和栽種田園的人。願你們在神帶領你們所在的地方生養眾多。願你為我們的城市求平安。願你們停止聽信別人的夢。願你們全心的尋求神。奉耶穌的名禱告, 阿門!

