

Topic: God Promised Us (Hope) “Hope Disguised”

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主題：神應許我們(盼望)“偽裝的盼望”

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詩歌一：**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** 聽阿！天使高聲唱

聽啊！天使高聲唱，榮耀歸於新生王，
神人融洽長歡欣，地上平安人蒙恩，
興起，世間大小邦，齊與諸天共頌揚，
天地唱和喜不勝，基督生於伯利恆。

歡迎天降和平王，歡迎輝煌公義光，
祂賜世人生命糧，祂消痛苦治創傷；
謙卑放下天榮尊，降世救人免沉淪，
要使罪人得重生，蒙恩常與主相親。

聽啊！天使高聲唱：「榮耀歸於新生王。」

詩歌二：**Great Are You Lord** 你是偉大神

你是愛，賜生命；
你的愛驅走黑暗；
賜盼望，祢恢復，
每一顆破碎的心；
Great are you Lord

你氣息，在我心；
我們獻上讚美，獻上讚美；
你氣息，在我心；
我們獻上讚美，獻上讚美；只為你

全地歌頌你聖名；
我心呼求，我靈歌唱；
Great are you Lord !

Great are you Lord !

詩歌三：**O Holy Night** 聖善夜

喔！聖善夜！群星閃爍多光明
在伯利恆，救主今夜降生

迷茫大地, 罪惡虛空中嘆息
直到晨曦顯現, 帶來黎明
真光顯現, 恩典照亮世人
揮別長夜, 迎接榮耀早晨

俯伏敬拜! 讓讚美聲傳萬邦
喔! 聖善夜! 救主基督降生
喔! 聖善夜! 救主基督降生

政權必擔在祂肩上
馬槽嬰孩是萬王之王
看祂不張揚不喧嚷
祂來為作贖罪羔羊
(2X)

俯伏敬拜! 讓讚美聲傳萬邦
喔! 尊貴、榮耀、能力永遠歸祂
尊貴、榮耀、能力永遠歸祂
(2X)

永永遠遠歸祂

INTRO 介紹

“Bathbomb” transition LOL! 「沐浴泡泡彈」過渡, 哈哈!

My name is Steve Mitchell, and I’m one of the pastors here.
I want to thank Pastor Bo and our teaching team for the opportunity.
我叫史蒂夫·米切爾, 是這裡的牧師之一。
我要感謝Bo牧師和我們佈道團隊給我這個機會。

You all got your cool newspapers on the way in, right?
你們進來的時候都拿到了很酷的報紙, 對吧?

So, you know that our Christmas theme is 所以, 你知道我們的聖誕節主題是

“*The Christmas Story is good news of great joy for all people.*” “聖誕故事對所有人來說都是一個大喜的好消息。”

And you now know that the First Sunday in Advent is Hope Sunday. 現在你知道降臨節的第一個星期日是希望星期天。

We’re going to look at the Hope God has promised us. 我們將看見神向我們應許的盼望。

Everything about Advent points to God's promised Messiah, Jesus. 關於降臨的一切都指向神所應許的彌賽亞耶穌。

The season is full of preparation for, and anticipation of Jesus' arrival. 這個季節充滿了對耶穌到來的準備和期待。

And, all of this is hope-filled! 而這一切，都是充滿希望的！

So, I want to ask you a question. 所以，我想問你一個問題。

And I want you to let the first thing that comes to mind be your answer. 我希望你首先想到的就是你的答案。

What do you hope for? 你的盼望什麼？

Maybe some of you thought... 也許你們有些人認為...

A new home 一個新家

A spouse 配偶

A boyfriend or girlfriend 男朋友或女朋友

That new job 那個新工作

To get into the perfect college 進入一所完美的大學

The year-end bonus you're counting on 你指望的年終獎金

We've all been there, right? The place where hope just seems to evaporate. 我們都會這樣，對嗎？希望似乎消失的地方。

If that's you and you're in this room or watching online, 如果那是你並且你在這個房間或在線觀看，

I want to reassure you. God has hope for you, 我想讓你放心。神對你有希望，
even when you don't have it for yourself. 即使你自己沒有。

Or, maybe it's not that bad for you. 或者，也許這對你來說並沒有那麼糟。

You just feel "blah" 你只是覺得“嘮叨”

You're not hopeless, 你並非絕望，
but you're not hope-filled, either. 但你也不充滿希望。

STORY: Malaise, sitting in that pew, volunteered for B4Kids. First teaching bombed...did not fully recognize what God was doing at the moment, but it was the beginning of a significant call to ministry.

故事: *Malaise* 坐在那張長椅上，為 B4Kids 做義工。起初的教導失敗了.....當時並沒有完全認識到神在做什麼，但這是對事工的重大呼召的開始。

So, why didn't I recognize what God was doing at first all those years ago? 那麼，為什麼這麼多年前我一開始就沒有認清神在做什麼呢？

Why didn't I see *his* hopes for me? 為什麼我沒有看到他對我的希望？

Because our hopes and expectations *always* overlap and intermingle. 因為我們的希望和期望總是重疊和混合的。

When I began to respond to what God was doing, 當我開始回應神所做的事時,
I immediately developed expectations. 我立即產生了期望。

You do that, too. We all do. 你會這樣做。大家都會這樣做。

Hope is born in our hearts, and its children become our expectations! 希望在我們心中誕生, 希望的孩子成為我們的期盼!

That's not a bad thing. 這並不是一件壞事。

God has made us in his image. 神按照祂的形象創造了我們。

Creativity, imagination, the ability to envision a good future... 創造力、想像、展望未來的能力...

All of those are part of how God made us. 所有這些都是神創造我們的一部分。

However, unmet expectations can become a "hope deferred." 然而, 未滿足的期望可能會成為「希望被推遲」。

Consider how Proverbs treats this:

想想箴言是如何處理這個問題的:

Proverbs 13:12

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.

箴言 13:12

希望的延遲使人心生痛, 但渴望的實現卻是生命之樹。

Jesus understands that when our hopes dashed, 耶穌明白當我們的希望破滅時,
when our expectations go unmet, 當我們的期望沒有被滿足時,
it breaks our hearts. 它讓我們心碎。

And, he is not unsympathetic. 而且, 他並不是沒有同情心。

But, he also doesn't want to leave us in a puddle of ugly crying. 但是, 他也不想讓我們陷入醜陋的哭泣。

He wants something better for us, 他想要給我們更好的東西,
which is why there's a second half of this proverb:
這就是為什麼有這句諺語的後半部:

*...but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.*但渴望的實現就是生命之樹。

When our deepest longings are fulfilled, when our hopes are realized, 當我們最深的渴望得到滿足, 當我們的希望得以實現,

it's like we're eating from the Tree of Life! 就像我們正在吃生命樹的果子一樣!

Do you hear an echo here? 你聽到這裡有迴音嗎?

This proverb is not just about us getting what we want. 這句諺語不僅僅是讓我們得到我們想要的東西。

There is a callback to Genesis and the Tree of Life in the Garden, 有一個對創世記和花園裡生命之樹的回調,

God still wants that for us, to eat from the TREE OF LIFE! 神仍然希望我們能吃生命樹上的果子！

Listen to Revelation 22. 請聽啟示錄 22 章。

Revelation 22:1-5

And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illuminate them; and they will reign forever and ever.

啟示錄 1 22:1-5

天使又指示我在城內街道當中一道生命水的河，明亮如水晶，從神和羔羊的寶座流出來。在河這邊與那邊有生命樹，結十二樣[a]果子，每月都結果子，樹上的葉子乃為醫治萬民。以後再沒有咒詛。在城里有神和羔羊的寶座，他的仆人都要侍奉他，也要見他的面。他的名字必寫在他們的額上。不再有黑夜，他們也不用燈光、日光，因為主神要光照他們。他們要做王，直到永永遠遠。

Our longings, our deepest desires for belonging, love, beauty, and purpose —

我們的渴望，我們對歸屬感、愛、美麗和目標的最深切的渴望——

they're all designed to bring us into contact with God AND his long-term plans.

它們都是為了讓我們與神和祂的長期計劃接觸而設計的。

He wants to live with us. 他想和我們住在一起。

He wants to share his work with us. 他想與我們分享他的工作。

Jesus cares about our happiness, but he cares more about drawing us into his goodness. 耶穌關心我們的幸福，但祂更關心吸引我們進入祂的良善。

Why? Because he knows that the goodness of himself —

為什麼？因為他知道自己善良——

the goodness of his Kingdom will fulfill *MORE* than we could hope for. 祂

王國的良善將實現比我們所希望的更多的事。

He knows that restoring goodness to Creation and renewing its promise 祂知道恢復造物的良善並更新其應許

INCLUDES things like joy, contentment, peace, and, yes, hope. 包括快樂、滿足、平安，當然還有希望。

AND, if we don't get that the cure for dashed hopes is real hope, 而且, 如果我們不明白治癒希望破滅的方法就是真正的希望,

we can drown in a sea of unmet expectations.

我們可能會淹沒在未滿足的期望之中。

STORY: Serving in Engage and Reunion, disillusioned couples

故事: 在訂婚和團聚中服務, 幻想破滅的夫婦

(starting in Jan - contact Debi Mills)

(從一月開始 - 聯絡 Debi Mills)

The colossal truth Jesus is recreating everything 巨大的真理耶穌正在重新創造一切 because of a promise that runs from Genesis to Revelation 因為從創世記到啟示錄的一個應許

must become the ground of our hope. 必須成為我們希望的基礎。

It is meant to shape our expectations. 它旨在塑造我們的期望。

Let's dig into that more with Matthew's Gospel as our guide. 讓我們以馬太福音為指導, 進一步深入探討這一點。

Please go to chapter two.

請轉到第二章。

MVMNT 1: HOPE PROMISED 第一: 應許的盼望

God always promises real, actual hope. 神總是應許真正的、實際的希望。

He's very clear about this. 他在這一點上非常清楚。

In fact, it's coded into the first verse of Matthew's Gospel.

事實上, 它被編碼到馬太福音的第一節經文。

Matthew 1:1

This is the genealogy (the genesis) of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham.

馬太福音 1:1 亞伯拉罕的後裔, 大衛的子孫 (後裔子孫原文都作兒子下同), 耶穌基督的家譜:

Immediately, Matthew mentions two people: David and Abraham. 馬太立刻提到了兩個人: 大衛和亞伯拉罕。

He's telling us that there is a connection between that arrival of Jesus 他告訴我們耶穌的到來之間存在著聯繫

AND the promises God made by to King David and the Patriarch Abraham 以及神對大衛王和族長亞伯拉罕的應許

We're met to see that Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel's PROMISED HOPE — 我們相聚是為了看見耶穌實現了以色列所應許的希望——

The covenant commitments God spoke to Abraham and David.

神對亞伯拉罕和大衛所立的應許的約。

Let's look at the promises to Abraham:讓我們來看看對亞伯拉罕的應許：

Gen 12:1-4 The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him...

創世記 12:1-4 1 耶和華對亞伯蘭說：你要離開本地、本族、父家，往我所要指示你的地去。2 我必叫你成為大國。我必賜福給你，叫你的名為大；你也要叫別人得福。3 為你祝福的，我必賜福與他；那咒詛你的，我必咒詛他。地上的萬族都要因你得福。4 亞伯蘭就照著耶和華的吩咐去了；羅得也和他同去。亞伯蘭出哈蘭的時候年七十五歲。

Later, when Abraham is really discouraged, 後來，當亞伯拉罕實在灰心喪志的時候，

God invites him outside, 神邀請他出去，

says, Look at the night sky," and promises him: 說，看看夜空，」並向他保證：

Genesis 15:5

"...count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 創世記 15:5 於是領他走到外邊，說：你向天觀看，數算眾星，能數得過來麼？又對他說：你的後裔將要如此。

And to David: 再說對於大衛：

2 Samuel 7:12-13

"...I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." 撒母耳記下 7:12-13 12 你壽數滿足、與你列祖同睡的時候，我必使你的後裔接續你的位；我也必堅定他的國。13 他必為我的名建造殿宇；我必堅定他的國位，直到永遠。

These are the promises that fueled the hope and expectations of God's people. 這些應許激發了神子民的盼望和期望。

But there's a problem that arises almost immediately in Matthew's story about Jesus. 但在馬太關於耶穌的故事中幾乎立即出現了一個問題。

Because of their hope — because of their faith — in God's promises, 因為他們對神的應許抱持著希望 — 因為他們的信心，

the Israelites *had expectations* of God's Messiah. 以色列人對神的彌賽亞抱持期待。

The Chosen One would drive out the evil oppressors, defeating Rome decisively. 天選者將驅逐邪惡的壓迫者，決定性地擊敗羅馬。

Israel would be free, never again subject to another imperial power. 以色列將獲得自由，不再受制於另一個帝國勢力。

Messiah would usher in a New Age filled with peace and prosperity, 彌賽亞將迎來一個充滿和平與繁榮的新時代，

leading Israel back to its vocation as a kingdom of priests 帶領以色列回到祭司王國的使命
and a light to the world.
和世界之光

MVMNT 2: HOPE DISGUISED 偽裝的希望

This is an important point because our expectations shape how we respond to the unexpected. 這是很重要的一點，因為我們的期望決定了我們如何應對意外情況。

And Matthew's Gospel makes two things very clear.

Jesus was recognizable as God's King, the promised Messiah.

Many people missed the unexpected ways in which Jesus fulfilled that promise.

馬太福音非常清楚地闡明了兩件事。

耶穌被公認為神的王，即應許的彌賽亞。

許多人錯過了耶穌以意想不到的方式實現了這項應許。

In telling Jesus story, Matthew rhymes it with Israel's story: 馬太在講述耶穌的故事時，與以色列的故事押韻：

Israel	Jesus
Abraham was thrust into the Land as a lone pioneer to a mixed reception.	Jesus was born into the Land as the lone sovereign to a mixed reception, at once worshipful and murderous.
Sent into Egypt to escape a deadly famine.	Sent into Egypt to escape a deadly plot.
Called out of Egypt into their vocation as a Kingdom of Priests, a light to the nations.	Called out of Egypt into his vocation as Priest, Prophet, and King to lead the nations into Israel's vocation.

Entered into their calling as God's passing through the Jordan River.	Entered his vocation passing through baptism in the Jordan.
Wandered the wilderness for 40 years struggling with sin and evil.	Wandered the wilderness for 40 days winning a decisive victory over the Evil One.
Received the Law from God's Prophet on a mountainside.	Reframed the Law as God's Chosen Prophet from a mountainside.
Confronted the demonic evil of explicit idolatry.	Defeated the demonic evil of implicit idolatry.

以色列	耶穌
亞伯拉罕作為孤獨的先驅被推入這片土地，但受到的歡迎卻褒貶不一。	耶穌降生在這片土地上，作為唯一的君主，受到了褒貶不一的歡迎，既崇拜又兇殘。
被派往埃及躲避致命的飢荒。	被派往埃及躲避致命陰謀。
被召喚離開埃及，承擔起祭司王國的使命，成為萬國之光。	他被召喚出埃及，擔任祭司、先知和君王，帶領萬民履行以色列的使命。
當神穿過約旦河時，他們就進入了他們的呼召。	透過在約旦河的洗禮進入他的職業。
在曠野流浪了四十年，與罪孽和邪惡作鬥爭。	在荒野中流浪了40天，最後戰勝了魔鬼。
在山坡上從神的先知那裡接受了律法。	山腰將律法重新定義為神所選的先知。
面對明顯的偶像崇拜的惡魔邪惡。	擊敗了隱含的偶像崇拜的惡魔邪惡。

Matthew wants us to see in every way that Jesus is faithfully fulfilling Israel's vocation. 馬太希望我們從各方面看到耶穌正在忠實地履行以色列的使命。

He is God's Chosen One. 祂是神的選民。

Where Israel's attempts are a checkerboard of faith *and* failure, 以色列的嘗試是信仰與失敗的棋盤，

Jesus is determined to be faithful. 耶穌決心要忠心。

So, how could so many people miss it? How could they be so confused? 那麼，怎麼會有這麼多人錯過呢？他們怎麼會這麼困惑呢？

Well, Jesus often *failed to* meet their expectations. 嗯，耶穌常常無法滿足他們的期望。

He had a reputation for keeping bad company with “tax collectors and sinners.” 他因與“稅吏和罪人”結交而聞名。

He played fast and loose with the religious leaders’ Sabbath regulations. 他對宗教領袖的安息日規定經常無視。

He sparred openly with the most respected religious leaders of his day, 他與當時最受尊敬的宗教領袖公開爭論，

often publically humiliating them. 經常公開羞辱他們。

He did and said things that only God would say or do, 他做了、說了只有神才會說或做的事情，

He forgave sins, for example 例如，他赦免了罪

BUT he also behaved in ways the Israelites were convinced God never would. 但他的行為方式也讓以色列人相信神永遠不會這樣做。

I believe so many Israelites missed the arrival of their Messiah 我相信很多以色列人錯過了彌賽亞的到來

because they had **made an idol of their expectations**. 因為他們已經按照自己的期望塑造了偶像。

When Jesus showed up differently than they expected, 當耶穌的顯現與他們預想的不同時，

it was almost as if the Hope of Israel wore a disguise. 就好像以色列的希望披上了偽裝。

God didn’t fashion the disguise. 神沒有設計偽裝。

It was created by their unmet expectations. 它是由他們未滿足的期望創建的。

Expectations that had become idols. 期望已成為偶像。

Making idols of our expectations prevent us from recognizing a God 塑造我們期望的偶像會阻止我們認識神

who offers us hope in an unexpected way. 他以意想不到的方式帶給我們希望。

These idols refuse to let go of their preconceived expectations 這些偶像拒絕放棄他們先入為主的期望

They put God in a box that feels substantial, but is tissue-thin. 他們把神放在一個盒子裡，感覺很堅固，但卻很薄。

Idols — whatever they might be made of — and God’s goodness can’t share the same space. 偶像—無論它們是由什麼製成的—和神的良善不能共享同一個空間。

One will always crowd out the other. 一個人永遠會排擠另一個人。

The trick is recognizing God’s goodness when it shows up in unexpected ways. 訣竅是當神的良善以意想不到的方式顯現時，並認識到它。

STORY: Tyson’s Shot of Encouragement; dad’s cancer, Dude Perfect, Unicylce “nothing but net” on the FIRST shot!!!

Please prep this clip :-) Maybe hop out at 1:56

▶ [WORLD'S HIGHEST SHOT OF ENCOURAGEMENT—FROM A UNICYCLE!](#)

故事: 泰森的鼓勵鏡頭; 爸爸的癌症, 完美的傢伙, 獨輪車 “除了在網上” !!!

請準備好這段影片:-) 也許會在 1:56

跳出世界上最高的鼓勵鏡頭—從獨輪車上下來!

What Tyson didn't share on that video is this: 泰森在該影片中沒有分享的是:

His first choice of doing the shot on Nike's campus didn't pan out. 他最初選擇在耐克園區進行拍攝的想法並沒有成功。

Tyson works for Nike and initially received permission to shoot the video on campus. 泰森為耐克工作, 最初獲得在園區拍攝影片的許可。

But when some senior execs heard about it, they shut it down over liability concerns. 但當一些高階主管聽說此事後, 他們因責任問題而反對。

I never once saw Tyson lose hope. 我從未見過泰森失去希望。

He saw the unexpected developments as God's hand at work. 他將這些意想不到的事態發展視為神之手。

He followed as God led, 他跟隨神的帶領,

letting go of his expectations, 放棄對他的期望,

Inviting others into the same attitude. 邀請其他人也採取同樣的態度。

I'll never forget him texting me the night he posted that first video. 我永遠不會忘記他發布第一個影片的那天晚上給我發短信。

As the views racked up into the 1000's, he wrote, 當觀看次數增加到 1000 次時, 他寫道:

“This is way more people than are in my hometown in Alaska!” “這比我家鄉阿拉斯加的人多得多!”

In the end, God didn't just meet Tyson's expectations. 最終, 神不僅僅滿足了泰森的期望。

He far exceeded them. 他遠遠超過了他們。

God does that. Jesus does that for those who could let go of their preconceptions, 神就是這麼做的。耶穌為那些能夠放棄成見的人這樣做,

and let God be the free unpredictable but always good and loving God that he is. 讓神成為自由、不可預測、但永遠良善、慈愛的神。

Tyson has a saying: 泰森有一句話:

Pursue God. Go Big. Palms Up. 追求神。做大。手掌向上。

That last part, “palms up” is from a Bob Goff book, *Love Does*. 最後一部分「手掌向上」來自鮑伯·戈夫的書《愛是》。

It epitomizes an open-handed refusal to idolize our expectations, 它體現了一種開放的態度, 拒絕崇拜我們的期望,

And make room for God be the free and unpredictable, 並為神騰出空間, 使之成為自由和不可預測的,

but always good and loving God that he is 但祂始終是良善慈愛的神

Fortunately, many Israelites were like Tyson. Many PEOPLE still are. 幸運的是, 許多以色列人都像泰森一樣。許多人仍然如此。

They recognized their God when he shows up. 當他們的神出現時, 他們認出了他。

One of them was Joseph, Mary's husband. 其中之一是瑪麗的丈夫約瑟。

MVMNT 3: HOPE EMBRACED 擁抱盼望

When Joseph found out about Mary's unexpected pregnancy, he had expectations. 當約瑟發現馬利亞意外懷孕的時候, 他有他的期待/預想。

He expected that she had been with another man. 他預想她是與別的男人在一起。

He expected that the right thing to do was to quietly end their engagement. 他預想的對的作法是暗暗的結束他們的婚約。

And, he probably anticipated a very different life with a different wife. 他很可能預想將跟一位不同的妻子過不一樣的生活。

He did not expect how God would intervene. 他沒有預想到神會如何干預。

Matthew shares a story about that: 馬太分享了這個故事:

Matthew 1:20-24

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

馬太福音 1:20-24

20 正思念這事的時候, 有主的使者向他夢中顯現, 說: 大衛的子孫約瑟, 不要怕! 只管娶過你的妻子馬利亞來, 因他所懷的孕是從聖靈來的。

21 他將要生一個兒子, 你要給他起名叫耶穌, 因他要將自己的百姓從罪惡裡救出來。

22 這一切的事成就是要應驗主藉先知所說的話,

23 說：必有童女懷孕生子；人要稱他的名為以馬內利。（以馬內利翻出來就是神與我們同在。）

24 約瑟醒了，起來，就遵著主使者的吩咐把妻子娶過來；

See, Joseph was a good, godly Jew. 看，約瑟是一位忠心虔誠的猶太人。

He knew how Messiah was supposed to show up: 他知道彌賽亞會出現。

A warrior king on a horse with a sword in his hand .一位騎在馬上、手里拿着劍的戰士君王。

More importantly, he knew the God who would send Messiah. 更重要的是，他認識那位將派遣彌賽亞的神。

STORY: Briana/my haircut: "You sound like my dad, but you don't look like my dad!" 故事：布莱恩娜/我的髮型：“你聽起來像我爸爸，但你看起來不像我爸爸！”

When we know someone, when we know God as Joseph did: 當我們認識某人，當我們像約瑟一樣認識神：

We know their voice. 我們熟悉他們的聲音。

We trust their word. 我們相信他們的話。

we have confidence in their character. 我們對他們的品格充滿信心。

Jesus came as he did to be the promised hope for those who weren't even looking for it. 耶穌的到來，為那些甚至沒有尋求的人帶來了希望。

Like Mary and Joseph and all of the people 就像馬利亞和約瑟夫以及所有人一樣

who had to lay aside their expectations so they could see him. 他們必須放下期望/預想才能見到他。

Like you and me. 就像你和我一樣。

So, what do we do short of an angelic visitation from Gabriel? 那麼，如果沒有加百列天使般的造訪，我們該怎麼辦呢？

How do we navigate the rocky shoals of unmet expectations and hope in disguise? 我們如何在未實現的期望和隱藏下的盼望的淺灘中航行？

How can we respond to REAL hope and avoid the idolatry of our expectations? 我們怎樣才能回應真正的盼望並避免對我們期望的盲目崇拜？

1. **Know (yada) the REAL promises** 認識 (yada) 真正的應許

through a life saturated in Scripture (Peterson quote?) 通過充滿聖經話語的生命 (彼得森引用?)

Live your story within God's. Sanctify your circumstances through prayer and the word of God. Joseph believed Gabriel because his life was saturated with Scripture and prayer, which in turn transformed his perspective concerning

his experiences. 在神的故事中活出你的故事。透過禱告和神的話語聖化你的處境。約瑟相信加百列，因為他的生命被聖經和禱告充滿，這反過來又改變了他看他的經歷的眼光。

Mention Advent reading plans - QR code in newspaper. 提及降臨節閱讀計劃 - 報紙上的二維碼。

“With man THIS is impossible but with God all things are possible.” “在人這是不可能的，在神凡事都能。”

2. **Know (yada) the God who promises:** 認識(yada)給應許的神

“It’s not *what* you know.” It’s *who* you know, “不是你知道什麼”。而是你認識誰。so get to know the author, and you will find hope in the knowing. 所以來認識這位作者，你會在認識中找到盼望。

Hebrews 10:23

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

希伯來書 10:23

23 也要堅守我們所承認的指望，不至搖動，因為那應許我們的是信實的。

What’s the one who promises like? —> Jesus! 給應許的那位是怎樣的？=》耶穌。

3. **Know (yada) that true hope is bound up with faith:** 認識(yada)與信心密不可分的真正的盼望

so you can hold tight to hope and carry expectations loosely. 所以你可以牢牢抓住神的盼望而輕鬆的帶著你的期待。

Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-13

*Now faith is **confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.** 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.*

*8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because **she considered him faithful who had made the promise.** 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.*

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

希伯來書 11:1-2

11 信就是所望之事的實底，是未見之事的確據。

2 古人在這信上得了美好的證據。

希伯來書 11:8-13

8 亞伯拉罕因著信，蒙召的時候就遵命出去，往將來要得為業的地方去；出去的時候，還不知往那裡去。

9 他因著信，就在所應許之地作客，好像在異地居住帳棚，與那同蒙一個應許的以撒、雅各一樣。

10 因為他等候那座有根基的城，就是神所經營所建造的。

11 因著信，連撒拉自己，雖然過了生育的歲數，還能懷孕，因他以為那應許他的是可信的。

12 所以從一個彷彿已死的人就生出子孫，如同天上的星那樣眾多，海邊的沙那樣無數。

13 這些人都是存著信心死的，並沒有得著所應許的；卻從遠處望見，且歡喜迎接，又承認自己在世上是客旅，是寄居的。

Amen and amen. 阿門，阿門。

We're going to take a few minutes to respond the how the Spirit may be moving in your hearts. 我們將花些時間來回應聖靈在你們心中的運作。

While the worship team leads us, 當敬拜團隊帶領我們時，

Let this hymn to God's nature sink deep into you. 讓這首讚美神的所是的讚美詩深深地進入你的心裡。

You may even want to hold you palms up with your hands open. 您甚至可能想張開雙手，手心向上。

And, if you don't yet follow the God who is revealed in Jesus, 而且，如果你還沒有跟隨在耶穌所啟示的神，

you can begin that new life today. 今天你就可以開始新的生命了。

You can say to Jesus, "I believe you are God's Messiah. 你可以對耶穌說：「我相信你是神的彌賽亞。

That you gave yourself on the Cross to cleanse me. 你在十字架上獻出了自己來潔淨我。

That you rose again to new life that you want to share with me. 你再次復活並想與我分享新的生命。

I turn from going my own way to follow you. Make me your own. 我不再走自己的路，而是跟隨你。讓我成為你自己的。

Response 回應

- Invitation to know real hope; God and his promises in Jesus 邀請來了解真正的盼望；神和祂在耶穌裡的應許
- Reflection song: Verse that includes “hope” from Nature 反思歌曲：包含來自大自然的「盼望」的詩句
- Benediction: May the God who is himself hope fill your imagination with his sure and trustworthy promises. May you be strengthened as you hold your hopes and dreams in the one who loves you best, Jesus, the Messiah. And, may you celebrate this Advent season with hope, in peace, full of joy, and embraced by God’s love. 祝禱：願盼望的神，用祂確實可靠的應許充滿你的想像。當你把希望和夢想寄託在最愛你的人——彌賽亞耶穌身上時，願你得到力量。並且，願您帶著希望、平安、滿足的喜樂，並被神的擁抱的愛來慶祝這個降臨節。

Elders/Prayer Team up front.長老/祈禱團隊在前面。

If you prayed to begin following Jesus, please come up and share that with one of them. 如果您禱告開始跟隨耶穌，請上來與其中一位長老分享。

Music and goodies in the Commons. Stay and hang out! 公共區域的音樂和美食。留下來交流！

Merry Christmas. You’re dismissed. We love you. See you next week! 聖誕節快樂。我們愛你。下週見！
