A.M.D.G. 5th Sunday of Easter – C Text: Revelation 21: 1-6

April 24th, 2016 复活节第五个主日

**Revelation 21:1-6启示录 21:1-6**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice

 from the throne saying,

我又看见一个新天新地，因为先前的天地都过去了，海也再没有了。 **2**我又看见圣城，新耶路撒冷，从天上由　神那里降下来，预备好了，好象打扮整齐等候丈夫的新娘。 **3**我听见有大声音从宝座那里发出来，说：

      "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God;
       they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;
       he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
       Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

       for the first things have passed away."

“看哪！　神的帐幕在人间，他要与人同住，他们要作他的子民。　神要亲自与他们同在，要作他们的　神。**4**他要抹去他们的一切眼泪，不再有死亡，也不再有悲哀、哭号、痛苦，因为先前的事都过去了。”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

**5**坐在宝座上的那一位说：“看哪，我把一切都更新了！”又说：“你要写下来，因为这些话是可信的、真实的。” **6**他又对我说：“成了！我是阿拉法，是俄梅格；我是创始的，也是成终的。我要把生命的泉水，白白赐给口渴的人喝。

**Message paraphrase “消息”圣经**

I saw Heaven and earth new-created. Gone the first Heaven, gone the first earth, gone the sea.

我又看见一个新天新地，因为先前的天地都过去了，海也再没有了。

**2**I saw Holy Jerusalem, new-created, descending resplendent out of Heaven, as ready for God as a bride for her husband.

我又看见圣城，新耶路撒冷，从天上由　神那里降下来，预备好了，好象打扮整齐等候丈夫的新娘。 **3**

**3-5**I heard a voice thunder from the Throne: “Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making his home with men and women! They’re his people, he’s their God. He’ll wipe every tear from their eyes. Death is gone for good—tears gone, crying gone, pain gone—all the first order of things gone.” The Enthroned continued, “Look! I’m making everything new. Write it all down—

each word dependable and accurate.”

**3**我听见有大声音从宝座那里发出来，说“看哪！　神的帐幕在人间，他要与人同住，他们要作他的子民。　神要亲自与他们同在，要作他们的　神。**4**他要抹去他们的一切眼泪，不再有死亡，也不再有悲哀、哭号、痛苦，因为先前的事都过去了。”

**6-8**Then he said, “It’s happened. I’m A to Z. I’m the Beginning, I’m the Conclusion. From Water-

of-Life Well I give freely to the thirsty. I’ll be God to them, they’ll be sons and daughters to me.

他又对我说：“成了！我是阿拉法，是俄梅格；我是创始的，也是成终的。我要把生命的泉水，白白赐给口渴的人喝。我讲是他们的神，他们是我的儿女。

**God Has Moved Into The Neighbourhood**

**上帝来到我们中间**

I want to invite you to do some imagining and exploring with me this morning. And to

begin – I’d like to ask you some questions about heaven.

今天上午我想邀请你们和我一起做一些想象和探索的事情，首先，我想问你们一些关于天堂的问题。

→ How many of you believe in heaven? --- 你们有多少人相信天堂？

→ How would you define ‘heaven’? --- 你们如何定义“天堂”？

→ What does it look like? --- 它看起来像什么？

→ Where is it? --- 它在哪？

→ What happens there – if there is a there? --- 那发生了什么？-如果有天堂的话

There is a segment in the North American Christian religious population that is absolutely convinced that we are all living in the end times. And they are focussed on the pressing need to convert people in time (ie. to ‘save’ people) to avoid what they predict will be a terrifying, all-encompassing, apocalyptic end of the world at the Second Coming of Christ.Even the movie industry in the last number of years has gotten into the

picture – spawning such movies as:

在北美基督宗教人口中有一部分人绝对相信我们正生活在末日。他们被迫需要及时改变信仰（也就是：“拯救”人类），以避免在基督第二次降临时出现他们所预测的那些可怕的，各种的世界末日的大灾难。甚至在过去几年，电影业已经进入多产的影片，如以下电影：

\* Cloud Atlas \* 云图

\* The Hunger Games \* 饥饿游戏

\* Mad Max: Fury Road \* 疯狂的麦克斯：狂暴之路

\* The Day The Earth Stood Still \* 地球停转之日

\* After Earth \* 重返地球

\* Children of Men \* 人类之子

In fact – as I did some research – I found 64 English films made from 2000 – 2009 based on the apocalypse or end of the world and over 60 such films made since 2010. To say that our culture – both religious and secular – is somewhat preoccupied with ‘end times’ would be an understatement! Perhaps – given what is going on in the world these days – wars, natural disasters, the rise of terrorist groups such as ISIS and Boko Haram, global warming and climate change, to name a few – this preoccupation is understandable. Some days you *have* to wonder how the world can survive all the

madness that is going on!

事实上，我做了一些研究，我发现从2000-2009年有64个英语电影和2010年超过60个电影是关于启示和世界末日的，是讲我们的文化，宗教和世俗，有些专注于”世界末日“将是轻描淡写，也许，在当今世界正在发生的事-战争，自然灾害，恐怖组织的崛起，如：ISIS和博科圣地，全球变暖和气候变化等等，这些关注是可以理解的。有些时候，你不得不怀疑所有这些疯狂事情的发生，还能让这个世界继续生存下去呢!

-2-

So our scripture passage from the book of Revelation this morning, speaking of a new heaven and a new earth – with the declaration that God is making all things new – seems particularly appropriate and contemporary for us today. This is a scripture that is often heard at Christian funerals – when we are consoled by thinking of a future time when there will be no more tears, no more pain, no more death …. a lovely vision that speaks to the deepest longing of our hearts for ourselves and for those we have loved

who are no longer with us physically.

所以今天上午启示录的一段经文宣称上帝创造了所有的新事物，一个新的天与地，看起来特别恰当地适合当今的我们。我们常常在基督教葬礼上听到这一段经文。当我们思考未来将是一个不再有眼泪、痛苦、死亡的时候，我们内心会感到安慰。这个可爱的憧憬会为我们说出了内心的深切的期盼，为那些已经死 去的亲人。

Having said that – many Christians, including preachers such as myself – approach the book of Revelation as a whole with some trepidation. As a piece of literature – it is often filled with strange symbols, cryptic analogies and terrifying visions. Although it is placed at the very end of the Bible as we know it – it wasn’t written as a conclusion to the Bible – but as a letter to 7 specific churches at the end of the First Century AD that were about one generation old as Christian communities.

我们已经说到过--许多基督徒包括像我这样的牧师--接触启示录这本书时总体来说都有些忧虑。作为一部文学著作--它充满了太多奇怪的象征物，神秘的推理以及恐怖的幻觉。就像我们所知道的，它被安置在圣经的结尾--但它并没有写成圣经的总结--取而代之的是一封写给公元一世纪末七个特定教会的信，那些教会大致是第一代的基督社团。

The book itself is set in the context of a time – in some ways very similar to our own – a time of great turmoil, persecution and conflict. This was the time when being a Christian was exceedingly dangerous – when they were hunted and killed – even to the

point of being fed to the lions by the Romans as a sport.

这本书本身的设定背景是一个巨大动荡，迫害，冲突的时代--有些跟我们现在很相像。那是一个作为一个基督徒极度危险的时代--一旦被捕就被杀掉--更令人发指的是会被罗马人当作娱乐去喂狮子。

The writer of the book of Revelation was likely a Jewish-Christian who most probably witnessed the disaster of the Jewish-Roman War of 66-70 AD that left the city of Jerusalem in ruins, many of his countryfolk killed and the glorious Temple in ruins. Exiled to the Isle of Patmos – cut off from his people, grieving the past, and unsure of what the future held – the vision we hear this morning expresses the longing of all of us to feel secure – to have a home and a place of our own. And it takes on even greater

poignancy when read through the lens of the refugee crisis in our world today.

启示录这本书的作者很可能就是犹太基督徒，他极有可能经历了公元66-70年的犹太-罗马战争，那场灾难留下了废墟上的城市耶路撒冷，他的同胞被杀戮，辉煌的神殿被摧毁。被放逐到帕特摩斯的伊斯尔--远离亲人，悲伤着过去，担心着未来--今天早上我们听到的这种幻景表达了我们所有人对感受安全的渴望--有一个能安置我们自己的家。透过当下世界难民危机，读这本书时这种感受就更加强烈。

-3-

The reading starts off with a beautiful and all-encompassing vision of a new heaven and a new earth – with the new Jerusalem at its centre as the place where God dwells. Eugene Peterson, in his paraphrase of this reading in ‘The Message’, writes,

*“I saw Heaven and earth new-created. AndI saw Holy Jerusalem, descending resplendent out of Heaven. Then I heard a Voice thunder from the Throne,saying, ‘Look! Look! God has moved into the neighbourhood – making a home with men and women!”*

书以美丽的环绕着新天地的幻景开始--新的耶路撒冷在它的中央，因为神就住在那里。尤金.皮特森在“消息（圣经）”的解释中写到“我看到了新天新地，我看到了圣城耶路撒冷，它从天而降。我听到雷鸣般的声音从宝座那里传出，说，看哪！看哪！神来到我们中间，他与男人们女人们组成大家庭”

What a great way of saying that God does not live in some far off place in the sky – but in our very midst. And what an intriguing thought to spur our religious imaginations about own own city and neighbourhood as places where God might find a home – places of co-operation, interdependence, diversity and welcome – places where we might find

Christ lurking in our friends and neighbours.

说的多好啊，神没有住在遥远的天上--祂就在我们中间。多么有趣的想法，激励我们虔诚的想象力，想象着我们的城市，我们的社区，在这里神或许会找到一个家；在这里大家互相协作，互相依赖，多元性还有热情的欢迎；在这里我们会发现基督就潜伏在我们的朋友里和邻居里。

As part of re-imagining our church for the future, our Church Council here at West Point Grey, is reading the book ‘Fishing Tips’ – based on how one church in Calgary revitalized their ministry. Perhaps in conjunction with that exploration of our current context for

ministry – our reading this morning from Revelation challenges us to ask the questions:

做为重新勾画我们教会的未来的一个单元，我们West Point Grey教会委员会正在阅读“钓鱼秘笈”这本书--基于卡尔加里一个教会是如何复兴他们的部门的。或许结合我们当下的环境对部门的探索，通过今天

早上启示录的阅读，挑战我们去问一些问题：

\* Where can God find a home in our neighbourhood?

\* 神在我们社区的什么地方可以找到家？

\* Where is God creating a new thing in our midst?

\* 神在我们中间新创建的事物在哪里？

\* And are we clear about the dream that we hold in our hearts –and is it part of God’s dream for this neighbourhood and for all creation?

\* 我们是否清楚我们心中拥有的梦想，它是神对 我们社区和天地万物的梦想吗？

We started out by sharing our visions of what heaven might be like. Our scripture this morning reminds us that God holds our lives – and that of all creation – from beginning to end. *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” God says, “the beginning and the end.”*It assures us that *whatever* awaits us at the end – the story isn’t over yet, there is more to

come – and it is exceedingly beautiful.

我们以分享我们对天堂的想象开始。今天早上的圣经阅读提醒我们上帝掌握了我们的生活-以及所有的创造-从头到尾。“我既是领头的又是跟随者”上帝说，“既是开始又是结束。” 这保证我们无论结果如何-故事没有结束，还有事情发生-而且非常美丽。

-4-

But it also invites us into a vision of heaven – not just as a place of endings – but where God is *always* present – inviting us into the creation of a new earth where “*mourning and crying and pain will be no more*.” Heaven is not just a future event – it is also a current reality. God has moved into the neighbourhood – making God’s home among us. And we are invited to help bring into being in *our* day, in *our* place and neighbourhood, in *our* time – God’s vision of wholeness, justice and peace for all people and all creation.

但这也让我们看到天堂的另一番景象-并不是一个生命终结的地方-是一个上帝永存的地方-邀请我们进入一个新世界，那里“不再有哀悼，哭泣和痛苦。” 天堂不是未来的事-也是目前的现实。上帝来到我们的周围-让上帝的家在我们中间。

Last week, in our service around Earth Day – Nick sang a favourite of many of us “*What A Wonderful World*”. It too speaks of a world in which God’s vision of heaven becomes a reality in the neighbourhoods in which we live. And so, I’m going to invite you to sing ‘What A Wonderful World” as a way of saying ‘Amen’ to God’s word of hope and

 encouragement to us through our scripture this morning:**"What A Wonderful World"**

上周，在地球日的主日礼拜活动中，Nick唱了一首我们大家很喜欢的歌曲＂如此美好的世界＂。歌曲描写了神的天堂景象在我们所住的社区实现了。所以我想邀请你们唱这首曲子＂如此美好的世界＂，就如同我们说＂阿门＂，对神的希望话语并鼓励我们彻底明白今天上午的经文：＂如此美好的世界＂

I see trees of green,
red roses too.
I see them bloom,
for me and you.
And I think to myself,
what a wonderful world.

我看见绿色的树木，
还有红色的玫瑰，
我看见他们绽放，
为了你和我。
我想,
如此美好的世界。

I see skies of blue,
And clouds of white.
The bright blessed day,
The dark sacred night.
And I think to myself,
What a wonderful world.

我看见蓝色的天空，
和白色的云彩。
光明祝福白昼，
黑暗让夜晚变得神圣。
我想，
如此美好的世界。

-5-

The colors of the rainbow,
So pretty in the sky.
Are also on the faces,
Of people going by,
I see friends shaking hands.
Saying, "How do you do?"
They're really saying,
"I love you".

彩虹的斑斓色彩，

在天空中如此美丽，

在我们的脸上，

人们走过，

我看到朋友相互捂手，

说：”你好？“

他们真的在说，

“我爱你。”

I hear babies cry,
I watch them grow,
They'll learn much more,
Than I'll ever know.
And I think to myself,
What a wonderful world.
Yes, I think to myself,
What a wonderful world.  Oh yeah.

我听到婴儿的哭叫，

我看到他们长大，

他们学到很多，

比我知道的，

我想，

如此美好的世界，

是的，我想，

如此美好的世界。噢，是。