A.M.D.G. 105th Anniversary of West Point Grey United Church Texts: Jeremiah 29:1-14a

 November 12th, 2017 Matthew 6: 25-34

**Jeremiah 29** ….. “These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.  It said:  Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:  Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce.  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. 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.  For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon’s seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfil to you my promise and bring you back to this place.  For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me.”

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| 耶利米书 29:1-14**29**以下这一封信，是耶利米先知从耶路撒冷寄给被掳的祭司、先知和众民以及尚存的长老，就是尼布甲尼撒从耶路撒冷掳到巴比伦去的。**2**这是在耶哥尼雅王、太后、宫中的臣宰、犹大和耶路撒冷的领袖、工匠和铁匠从耶路撒冷被掳走以后。 **3**这封信是由沙番的儿子以利亚萨和希勒家的儿子基玛利带去的；他们是犹大王西底家差往巴比伦，去见巴比伦王尼布甲尼撒的。信上说： **4**“万军之耶和华以色列的　神对所有被掳的，就是耶和华（“耶和华”原文作“我”）把他们从耶路撒冷掳到巴比伦去的人，这样说： **5**‘你们要建造房屋，定居下来；要栽种园子，吃园中的果子。 **6**你们要娶妻，生养儿女；要为你们的儿子娶媳妇，把你们的女儿出嫁，好让他们也生养儿女。你们要在那里增多，不可减少。 **7**我把你们掳到的那城，你们要为她求平安，为她向耶和华祈祷；因为她得平安，你们也得平安。’**8**“万军之耶和华以色列的　神这样说：‘不要被你们中间的先知和作占卜的欺骗，也不要听信自己所作的梦（“自己所作的梦”原文作“你们的梦，就是你们所促使作的梦”，有古本作“他们所作的梦”）。 **9**因为他们冒我名对你们说虚假的预言，我并没有差派他们。’这是耶和华的宣告。**10**“耶和华这样说：‘为巴比伦所定的七十年满了以后，我必眷顾你们，向你们实行我满有恩惠的诺言，把你们带回这地方来。 **11**因我自己知道我为你们所定的计划，是使你们得平安，而不是遭受灾祸的计划；要赐给你们美好的前程和盼望。’这是耶和华的宣告。 **12**‘你们要呼求我，要来向我祷告，我就必应允你们。 **13**你们要寻找我，只要一心寻求，就必寻见。 **14**我必给你们寻见（这是耶和华的宣告）；我必使你们被掳的归回，从我赶逐你们去的各国各地，把你们集合起来，带回我掳你们离开的地方去。’这是耶和华的宣告。 |

**Matthew 6 ….** *Jesus said,* “So my counsel is: Don’t worry about *things—*food, drink, and clothes. For you already have life and a body—and they are far more important than what to eat and what to wear. Look at the birds! They don’t worry about what to eat—they don’t need to sow or reap or store up food—for your heavenly Father feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than they are. Will all your worries add a single moment to your life? And why worry about your clothes? Look at the field lilies! They don’t worry about theirs. Yet King Solomon in all his glory was not clothed as beautifully as they. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, won’t he more surely care for you, O  people of little faith! So don’t worry at all about having enough food and clothing. Your heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need them. And don’t be anxious about tomorrow. For God will take care of your tomorrows too. Just live one day at a time.

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马太福音 6:25-34

**25**所以我告诉你们，不要为生命忧虑吃甚么喝甚么，也不要为身体忧虑穿甚么。难道生命不比食物重要吗？身体不比衣服重要吗？ **26**你们看天空的飞鸟：牠们不撒种，不收割，也不收进仓里，你们的天父尚且养活牠们；难道你们不比牠们更宝贵吗？ **27**你们中间谁能用忧虑使自己的寿命延长一刻呢？ **28**何必为衣服忧虑呢？试想田野的百合花怎样生长，它们不劳苦，也不纺织。 **29**但我告诉你们，就是所罗门最威荣的时候所穿的，也比不上这花中的一朵。 **30**田野的草，今天还在，明天就投进炉里，　神尚且这样妆扮它们；小信的人哪，何况你们呢？ **31**所以不要忧虑，说：‘我们该吃甚么？喝甚么？穿甚么？’ **32**这些都是教外人所寻求的，你们的天父原知道你们需要这一切。 **33**你们要先求他的国和他的义，这一切都必加给你们。 **34**所以不要为明天忧虑，因为明天自有明天的忧虑，一天的难处一天当就够了。”

**感谢昨天、活在今天、相信神为我们预备的明天**

**Give Thanks For Yesterday, Live For Today, Trust God For Tomorrow**

It is 586 BCE, and life is very uncertain for the Jewish people in our scripture reading today from Jeremiah. It was one of the worst catastrophes in the history of God’s people – the holy city, Jerusalem, centre of the Temple and the core of their spiritual lives, reduced to rubble by the conquering Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar – and the once powerful Jewish leaders forced to march into exile, feeling God had utterly abandoned them. The people – totally demoralized,

their spirits crushed, any hope extinguished, perhaps for good.

今天从耶利米书的经文中，我们知道公元前586年，犹太人的生活非常不稳定。 这是上帝子民历史上最严重的灾难之一 - 圣城耶路撒冷，圣殿的中心和精神生活的核心，被征服的巴比伦国王，尼布甲尼撒瓦解成瓦砾 - 曾经强大的犹太人领袖被迫流亡，感觉上帝完全抛弃了他们。 人民完全士气低落，精神崩溃，任何希望都消失了，这也许是好事。

Into the uncertainty of this moment – the prophet Jeremiah sent the letter which we heard this morning. Speaking the word of the Lord, he writes: *“For I know the plans I have for you, ‘says the LORD, “plans for your welfare and not for evil – to give you a future with hope.”* We can

only imagine the relief and joy with which the people heard these words!

在这个动荡不安的时刻，先知耶利米写了这封书信以宣告耶和华的话。我们今早听到的便是这段经文。他在信中写道：“耶和华说：'因我自己知道我为你们所定的计划，是使你们得平安，而不是遭受灾祸；是要赐给你们美好的前程和盼望'。我们能够想象被掳的以色列人听到耶和华这样的宣告是何等释怀和喜悦。

And just as their hopes begin to rise from despair – that this may be a distressing, but temporary set-back before they are allowed to return to their homes and lives as before – God, through the prophet Jeremiah, inserts a big **BUT.** And the ‘but’ is – its going to take 70 years. They will have to remain in Babylon, establishing their new lives where they are – setting

down roots, building houses, planting gardens, getting married, having children.

以色列人在绝望中又升起了希望。但是上帝又借先知耶利米的口给了他们一个大大的“但是”，这可说是让人悲伤的，是在他们被允许回到家乡像从前那样生活之前的一个暂时的挫折。他们将不得不住在巴比伦，在那里构建新的生活：扎根下来，建造房屋，栽种园子，结婚并生养儿女。

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In reality – it meant that none in the current generation – no adult reading Jeremiah’s letter – would be alive to see God’s promise come to fruition. They were, instead, to be about the task of planting seeds of hope **now** for future generations to come. They were to make the best of their present circumstances, without looking backward and yearning for what used to be – a past

that was over – and trusting in the hope of the future into which God was calling them.

事实上，这意味着，在当时那个时代的人读耶利米的书信时会知道成年人中没有一个会活着看到上帝的应许的实现。然后，他们当时的使命就是为子孙后代播种希望的种子。他们要充分利用现在的环境，不回头看过去，曾经习惯怀念过去 - 过去的已经过去 - 相信上帝所召唤的未来。

And isn’t that such a relevant word for us here at West Point Grey United as this morning, we celebrate the 105th anniversary of the establishment of this congregation! In looking backward at the past, it is hard not to yearn for the days when there were 787 members and Church School attendance stood at 516! When the church was bustling and bursting at the seams with

youth groups like the Canadian Girls in Training, Hi-C, and the Young People’s Union.

今天上午在我们庆祝成立这个教会的105年周年纪念日的时候，我们是不是在West Point Grey联合教会上也出现这样一个相关词！回顾过去的过程中，很难不去怀念有787个成员的日子，而教会主日学校的出勤率是516！当教堂的繁荣和充满青年的团契如加拿大女孩训练团队、Hi-C和年轻人的联盟

But as I hear God’s word for us this morning – like the Jewish people of Jeremiah’s day, we are being urged to honour the past, but not cling to it with longing. To live fully in this present moment, meeting the needs of God’s world today. And then to trust in the promise of God’s tomorrow. Jesus sums it up well in our reading from Matthew’s gospel: “*Don’t worry about anything. God will take care of your tomorrows, too. Just live one day at a time.”*

但是，正如我今天早上听到神对我们说的话，就像耶利米时代的犹太人一样，我们被敦促去尊重过去，而不是活在过去。要活在当下，满足神的世界的需要。然后相信上帝对明天的应许。耶稣在我们读马太福音中总结说：“*所以不要为明天忧虑，因为明天自有明天的忧虑，一天的难处一天当就够了。”*

And so this morning, as we look back at the past – we honour all the saints of this congregation who were willing to take risks, and served faithfully, trusting in God’s promise to guide and sustain them at each moment of the past 105 years. And we celebrate the present – giving thanks for this wonderful, talented, caring, diverse family of faith as we are right now. And we trust God to lead us into the unfolding adventure of faith that is opening up before us in the future – knowing that God will take care of our tomorrows, too. Thanks be to God!

所以今天早上，在我们回忆往事中 – 我们尊重教会那些愿意冒险、忠诚侍奉、相信上帝的承诺而坚持走过105年岁月的圣徒们。我们庆祝现在 – 感谢目前这个美好、有天赋、关心的、不同文化背景的信仰大家庭。我们相信神将引领我们进入到一个信仰的奇遇中，就在未来在我们面前彰显。上帝会永远爱护我们。把感谢献给上帝！