A.M.D.G. Advent 1- A 耶稣降临节1-A Text: Isaiah 2: 1-5

 November 27, 2016

**Isaiah 2: 1-5**In days to comethe mountain of the Lord’s houseshall be established as the highest of the mountains,and shall be raised above the hills;all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say,‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,to the house of the God of Jacob;that he may teach us his waysand that we may walk in his paths.’

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,and shall arbitrate for many peoples;they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,and their spears into pruning-hooks;nation shall not lift up sword against nation,neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,come, let us walkin the light of the Lord!

以赛亚书2:1-5

在末後的日子，耶和華殿的山，必被堅立，超乎眾山，必被高舉，過於萬嶺；萬國都要流歸這山。

**3**必有多國的人前來，說：“來吧！我們上耶和華的山，登雅各　神的殿；他必把他的道指教我們，

我們也必遵行他的路。”因為訓誨必出於錫安，耶和華的話必來自耶路撒冷。**4**他要在列國施行審判，

為多國的人斷定是非。他們必把刀打成犁頭，把矛槍打成鐮刀。這國不舉刀攻擊那國，他們也不再學習戰爭。**5**雅各家啊，來吧！我們要在耶和華的光中行走！

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**Hope – Light In The Darkness 希望-黑夜中的明灯**

Happy New Year! Today, churches all around the world begin a new church year by ushering in Advent – a time of preparing ourselves once again to experience the birth of Christ in our hearts and souls – a time of Hope for the reign of God to come anew in the midst of the chaos, the conflict and injustice of our world – a time of waiting for the Sacred to break into the ordinary once again as it did that Christmas over 2,000 years ago.

新年快乐!今天全世界的教堂通过迎接基督降临开始新的一年—再一次准备让我们自己在内心和灵魂深处经历基督的降临的时候—在一片混乱的局势中,我们的世界的冲突和不公, 希望上帝重新统治的时候—就像2000多年前的圣诞节,等待神圣再次进入人间的时候。

But despite the cheerful Christmas carols, bright lights and decorations that have been adorning the stores now for over a month – in the context of all that is going on in our world – and perhaps in our lives – the cheerfulness of this time leading up to Christmas sounds a bit forced - and the contrast between the fa-la-las and the cries of many who are in the midst of poverty, war, and uncertainty seem a bit startling.

尽管欢快的圣诞颂歌,明亮的灯光和一直装饰一个多月的商店, 所有这一切发生在我们的世界里--或许在我们的生活中——这一次的圣诞节的欢乐听起来有点强迫 -- fa-la-las（婴儿商店）和许多正处在贫穷,战争和不稳定性人的哭泣之间的对比似乎有点令人吃惊.

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Even our scripture reading today seems a bit disconnected with reality – a vision of nations coming together in peace: “*They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, and neither shall they learn war any more.”*

甚至我们今天读的经文似乎和现实有点脱离,--国家平安在一起的美景: “他们必把剑打成犁头，把矛枪打成镰刀。这国不举剑攻击那国，他们也不再学习战争”

More than 500 years before the time of Jesus, even the people of Israel listened to Isaiah's dream, this vision of the future – of the possible - and then they looked around them at their once-beautiful city, Jerusalem - burned and battered by powers that must have appeared unstoppable. And they, too, wondered.

在耶稣时代500多年前，即使是以色列人也听以赛亚的梦，这是未来的情景– 可能的情景– 然后他们环顾四周，曾经美丽的耶路撒冷– 被无休无止的权利焚毁和击溃。

The great biblical scholar, Walter Brueggemann, has compared this week's beautiful passage from the prophet Isaiah to the "I have a dream" speech of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. But, unfortunately - most days our lived reality is still a long, long way from either prophet's vision of healing, justice, and peace.

伟大的圣经学者Walter Brueggemann曾经比较过这周的来自于Isaiah预言家的美丽预言和马丁路德金的“我有一个梦”。但是不幸的是，我们的现实生活仍是一条预言家眼里的治愈，公正和和平的长长的路。

This year, we close our eyes and listen to the words of this dream of peace and harmony from Isaiah with heavy hearts, thinking of the conflicts and war that flare and threaten to flare all over the world - in Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Central America - and in our cities and neighborhoods, as well, our homes and workplaces, and our relationships with one another.

今年，我们闭上眼睛，怀着沉重的心情聆听这个来自于以赛亚的关于和平和和谐的梦，想着冲突和战争在全世界爆发和威胁爆发 – 在叙利亚，巴基斯坦，阿富汗，索马里，中美洲 – 在我们的城市和社区，我们家里和工作场所，以及我们和别人的关系。

We've come to understand the absence of peace in other ways, too: in the threat of terrorism that makes even "peaceful" days feel ominous and "secure" places unsafe, in the growing anger of the dispossessed and disadvantaged that threatens to explode, in the damage to the earth that we will leave as a tragic legacy to our grandchildren. Melting glaciers, superstorms, masses of plastic in the ocean and earthquakes in New Zealand and other places, animal species facing extinction: we have to wonder if nature itself is at war with us--not that we could blame it if it were.  Climate change and environmental destruction are facts of our lives – despite the claim of some that it is all a hoax or fear-mongering.

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我们还变得能以其他方式理解和平的缺失：在恐怖主义的威胁下使得“和平的”日子变得不祥，和”安全的”地方变得不安全；在被剥夺权利和弱势人群不断增长的愤怒下威胁爆炸；在地球被破坏，而这会是我们留给子孙的悲剧性的遗产。溶解的冰川，大风暴，海洋中大量的塑料垃圾和在新西兰及其他地方的地震，濒临灭绝的物种: 我们不得不感到迷惑是否大自然正与我们开战- 如果真是这样我们也不能怪罪她。气候变化和环境破坏是生活中的事实 – 尽管有些人声称这都是恶作剧或散播恐惧。

With our hearts heavy, then, with the fears and the suffering of our lives and our world – how then, are we to step into these Advent days? How are we to sing our ‘Joy To The World’s? Where do we find the holy in the midst of the mess? And where is the hope that will light our way in the darkness?

带着沉重的心情，带着恐惧，和对我们生活和世界的磨难 – 然而我们应该怎样步入这些降临日？我们应该怎么唱我们的“世界的快乐”？在乱世中怎样找到圣灵？并且哪里有希望可以在黑暗中照亮我们的道路？

It is the question that is asked in a contemporary and somewhat edgy video I came across about a month ago as I was preparing to sit down with the Worship Committee to plan for our Advent and Christmas Season. It is a spoken-word poem that is called ‘Brave Advent Lament’ which I’d like to share with you this morning.

这个问题出现在我一个月前看到的一个当代的有些尖锐的视频中，当时我正准备和敬拜委员会坐下来计划我们的降临日和圣诞季活动。这是一首口语诗，名字叫“勇敢的降临日哀叹”。我今早会和大家分享。

I warn you – it is not always easy to listen to – both from the perspective that the 2 women speak quickly – but also because it raises uncomfortable questions.I copied out the text of the words as I best I could for you – so that you can understand more of what is being said.

我警告你们- 这个视频不太容易被接受- 不仅是这两位妇女说得很快 – 而且还提出了让人觉得不舒服的问题。我尽我所能记录下了这首诗 – 这会帮助你们尽量理解说的是什么。

***video 视频***

Our Advent season begins – in the very midst of the mess in which our world exists - with the proclamation of what, given our current context seems *impossible*: nations coming together, and all creation working in harmony for justice and peace and wholeness. But as our video today reminds us - Christmas is *about* the impossible.

我们的耶稣降临节开始了，在这个充满混乱的世界里， 我们宣告什么， 考虑到我们目前的情况似乎不可能的：各个国家团结在一起，所有的创建工作都是为了正义、和平和完整而和谐相处。 但我们今天的视频中提醒我们-圣诞节是关于不可能发生的事。

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500 years after the words of Isaiah were spoken, a young woman heard the promise reiterated: “*Nothing will be impossible with God.”* And Jesus the Christ – the Hope of

God – was born into the world – a light to shine the way in the darkness.

以赛亚书中的话，在500年后， 一名年轻女子听到了再次重申的承诺: “对上帝来讲没有什么事情不可能”。 耶稣基督--上帝的希望，耶稣降临到这个世界--一盏照耀在黑暗中的明灯。

So – encompassed by the vision from Isaiah and in the words of our video: “*Take* ***that*** *hopelessness, take* ***that*** *misery, take* ***that*** *despair, because Christmas is an insurrection and a resurrection. Because this Christmas, Jesus is not just the baby. He is the radical revolutionary who came to do the saving, who spoke uncomfortable truth to the narrow-minded religious, who turned over tables for justice, who used his voice to speak for*

*children, orphans, widows - who became freedom for the oppressed.*

所以--从以赛亚的愿景所包含的内容和在我们今天看到的视频: “接受无望，接受痛苦，接受绝望，因为圣诞节就是一种起义反叛和一种复兴。 因为这个圣诞节，耶稣不仅仅是婴儿。 他是激进革命者，他来解救，他来是对那些狭隘思想的宗教说出让他们听起来不舒服的真理。他来是为正义扭转局面，他为儿童、孤儿和寡妇说话，为被压迫的人获得自由。

*Yes – he wanted us to know peace so badly that he sacrificed himself so that we could realize we are not US vs THEM. We are US with HIM. He is Emmanuel – who is God with us – saving us from us – so that we can be rebirthed, revived, renamed, and reborn. God is with us – God is for us – God forgives us, redeems us, accepts us – God enfolds us, God emboldens us. God is with us and God stays with us – us who want to*

*walk and serve like him, fight injustice and poverty with him.*

是的，他想让我们迫切地了解和平，他牺牲自己以使我们能够意识到我们不是“**我们对他们**”。 我们是“**我们和他**”。 他是以马内利-- “上帝与我们同在”--拯救了我们--使我们可以重生、恢复、再命名、和再生。 上帝与我们同在--上帝是我们的--上帝饶恕我们，救赎我们，接受我们 -- 上帝拥抱我们，上帝使我们有胆量。上帝与我们同在，上帝和我们在一起，我们像他一样处事和服侍，并同他一起

为不公正和贫困而斗争。

*So this Advent - let’s do what we hear the angels singing: Glory in the highest running down to meet the lowest; let every heart prepare him room; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found; his law is love and his gospel is peace; in excelsis deo. Let us sing for love, for peace, for goodwill for all humanity. Let us extend*

*our hands, and lift our voices till our lives shout out aloud “Merry Christmas” .*

在耶稣降临的季节里，让我们照着天使所歌唱的去做: 荣耀的上帝从至高到地极；让我们每个人在心中都给他留下空间；在发现诅咒的时候他会来带给我们长远流淌的祝福；他的律法是爱他的福音是平安；荣归主颂。让我们为爱、为和平、为全人类的福祉歌唱。让我们伸出我们的双手，抬高我们的声音直到

在我们生命中大声喊出 “圣诞快乐。”

And the people said: **Amen!** 人们说：阿门！