A.M.D.G. Reign of Christ Sunday – B Text: Romans 12

 November 22nd, 2015

**Romans 12 The Message (MSG)**

So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.I’m speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it’s important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what God does for us, not by what we are and what we do for God

In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we’re talking about is Christ’s body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn’t amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ’s body, let’s just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren’t.

If you preach, just preach God’s Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don’t take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don’t get bossy; if you’re put in charge, don’t manipulate; if you’re called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don’t let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.Love from the center of who you are; don’t fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

Don’t burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don’t quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality. Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they’re happy; share tears when they’re down. Get along with each other; don’t be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don’t be the great somebody. Don’t hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you’ve got it in you, get along with everybody.

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所以弟兄们，我以神的慈悲劝你们，将身体献上，当作活祭，是圣洁的，是　神所喜悦的；你们如此事奉，乃是理所当然的。不要效法这个世界，只要心意更新而变化，叫你们察验何为　神的善良、纯全、可喜悦的旨意。我凭着所赐我的恩，对你们各人说：不要看自己过于所当看的，要照着　神所分给各人信心的大小，看得合乎中道。正如我们一个身子上有好些肢体，肢体也不都是一样的用处。我们这许多人，在基督里成为一身，互相联络作肢体，也是如此。按我们所得的恩赐，各有不同：或说预言，就当照着信心的程度说预言；或作执事，就当专一执事；或作教导的，就当专一教导；或作劝化的，就当专一劝化；施舍的，就当诚实；治理的，就当殷勤；怜悯人的，就当甘心。爱人不可虚假；恶要厌恶，善要亲近。爱弟兄，要彼此亲热；恭敬人，要彼此推让。殷勤不可懒惰。要心里火热，常常服事主。在指望中要喜乐，在患难中要忍耐；祷告要恒切。圣徒缺乏要帮补，客要一味地款待。逼迫你们的，要给他们祝福；只要祝福，不可咒诅。与喜乐的人要同乐；与哀哭的人要同哭。要彼此同心，不要志气高大，倒要俯就卑微的人（注：“人”或作“事”）。不要自以为聪明。不要以恶报恶。众人以为美的事，要留心去做。若是能行，总要尽力与众人和睦。亲爱的弟兄，不要自己伸冤，宁可让步，听凭主怒（注：或作“让人发怒”）。因为经上记着：“主说：‘伸冤在我，我必报应。’”所以，“你的仇敌若饿了，就给他吃；若渴了，就给他喝。因为你这样行，就是把炭火堆在他的头上。” 你不可为恶所胜，反要以善胜恶。

**Count Me In! 算我一个！**

As most of you are aware by now – the theme of our stewardship campaign for this year is ‘Count Me In!’.It invites us into an opportunity – as this body of Christ’s followers – to each prayerfully consider how our sharing of our financial resources and our offering of our time and talents – can enable us as a congregation to do the ministries to which we have felt called – providing a welcoming place of gathering for worship, for community, for spiritual nurture, and for outreach.

在座的大多数人都知道：今年我们教会的管理经费筹募活动的主题是：“算我一个”。这个活动使得我们每个教会-也就是耶稣身体的追随者，有机会虔诚地去思考：我们教会的会众，如何以捐赠财富、奉献时间和才干等形式来使得这个教会得以营运，我们感到这是神的召唤。教会为崇拜聚会、社区、灵修，以及拓展活动提高了温馨的场所。

Through programs like:

\* our TLC Lunch Club, which draws seniors from the congregation and local community together each Thursday for a chance to meet new friends, share an interesting program and have a warm, delicious, nourishing meal;

\* 午餐俱乐部，每周四的午餐聚会将教会以及社区的长者聚集在一起。长者们借此机会结识新  朋友和

参加有趣的活动，并享受一顿温暖可口的营养餐。

\* our ESL classes, which gather approx. 60 people twice a week to learn English – but just as importantly to offer community and welcome to our many newcomers to Canada;

英语班，大约60人每周两次来教会学习英语，但是更重要的是这给社区以及新移民提供了机会。

\* the Yarnspinners – from the church and community – who have over the last 2 years provided hundreds of warm toques and gloves for underprivileged children in the Vancouver School system;

\* 编织组，教会和社区的参与者们在过去的两年多里，编织了数百顶暖帽和手套，提供给温哥华教育局系统内的贫困孩子。
\* our Intercultural program – which reaches out in friendship and welcome to our ethnic folk in the local West Point Grey area – many of whom are new to our Canadian culture and language;

\* 文化互动项目，该项目促成友谊、欢迎West Point Grey区的少数族裔新移民，他们中很多人对加拿大文化和语言都还很陌生。
\* and our Sock program – which provides a minimum of 3,000 new and warm pairs of socks for those sleeping on the streets in the downtown Eastside of Vancouver

\* 袜子项目，该项目为温哥华市中心东区内露宿街头的人提供了3000双新的保暖袜。

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to name a just a few ministries ....  we have the opportunity to respond to the invitation to ‘Count Me In!’ – to give back in gratitude for all God has given in your life and mine – and to make a difference together in our local community and around the world .... to count me in as a follower of Jesus, to count me in as a part of this congregation, to count me in as supporting the ministry to which we are called - to count me in!  Because we can’t do it without the support of each other and the grace of God.

只提到几个事工项目--我们有很多机会回应＂算我一个！＂的活动，以感谢神赐给我们生活，让我们给我们的社区和周围世界创造精彩。把我算为基督的追随者，把我算为一个教会一员，把我算为一个支持教会事工的成员，算我一个！没有彼此的支持，没有神的恩典我们什么也做不成。

But as I was thinking about all this in preparation for this morning – I realized that our theme of ‘Count Me In’ – also speaks to something that goes much deeper.
但是，当我在想今天的布道内容时，我意识到＂算我一个！＂的主题，也可以有更深的意义。

In light of the downing of a Russian airliner in the Sinai,  the attacks in Nigeria by Boko Haram,  and the most recent terrorist attacks in Paris – there is a growing tendency across the world – and certainly in the West – against a philosophy of ‘Count Me In’.  In fact – in many circles, it has become a campaign of ‘count me out!’.
俄罗斯飞机在西奈山遇难，尼日利亚发生的由科博圣地制造的枪击案，及最近的巴黎恐怖事件，在全事件逐渐扩大的恐怖事件，当然在西方对恐怖袭击开始了＂算我一个！＂的战役，事实上，在很多城市"算我一个＂已经成为反恐的战役！

I have been appalled this week at the virulent backlash that has been brewing about plans to sponsor and settle Syrian refugees in Canada and the US.  The local newspapers have been filled with letters not only advocating caution but expressing what can only been seen as racism and prejudice.  Premier Christy Clark’s suggestion that Syrian refugees might receive a warmer welcome and better opportunities in BC’s north – triggered a strong, and angry  response online - which prompted former BC Premier Dosanjh to caution, “It’s absolute hate – and hate poisons societies.”
这周我很惊讶有关加拿大和美国有关叙利亚难民政策的猛烈反弹。当地报纸不光充满了倡导谨慎的文章，而且还表达出种族偏见。BC省省长Christy Clark建议要热情欢迎叙利亚难民，并在BC省北部地区给他们更多的机会。这引起了网上强烈的愤怒，前BC省省长Dosanjh提出大家注意--绝对的仇恨，仇恨毒害整个社会。

In the United States, 29 of the country’s governors have announced that they will bar Syrian refugees.  Donald Trump, the Republican Presidential frontrunner declared he would “send any refugees back where they came from”.  And a prominent Tennessee lawmaker went as far as to suggest that the National Guard should round up all the recently arrived refugees and prevent any more from entering the country.
在美国有29个洲政府宣布不接受叙利亚难民。Donald Trump，共和当总统候选人宣布他将把难民送回他们的原住地。一位著名田纳西州法律制定人甚至建议国家保安人员围捕最近来的难民，并杜绝更多难民进入。
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I am appalled!  Not only as a Christian, not only as a Canadian, but as a member of humanity as a whole – I am appalled!  I understand the caution that must be exercised in security screening, and appreciate that our new Prime Minister’s intent to bring in 25,000 refugees by the end of the year might be a little ambitious -although not, perhaps, impossible – particularly given what countries in Europe are facing and trying to do in response.  Rex Brunen, a Political Science professor at McGill University, stated recently, “The broader question is whether fear of a few evil men and women will lead us to sacrifice our basic moral commitment to human beings fleeing war, oppression and deprivation.  I, for one, (he said) am not prepared to grant ISIS a veto over refugee policy or humanitarian obligations.”  And, as President Obama said this week - to insulate ourselves and victimize those who have already endured unimaginable hardships would be, “a betrayal of our values.”
我很惊讶！不仅做为一个基督徒，不仅做为加拿大人而惊讶，而是做为人类的一员而惊讶。我能理解有关对难民进行安全背景筛选，也感谢我们的新总理表示在年底解难25,000叙利亚难民，尽管有些挑战，有可能实现不了，但是是对目前欧洲面临的事情的回应。Rex Brunen是McGill大学政治系教授，他最近说，＂普遍的问题是是否因害怕几个邪恶的男人和妇女而使我们丧失我们人类的对战争难民，压迫的人和贫困的承诺的道德底线。就我而言，我不会让ISIS否决难民政策和人道主义的责任。＂做为奥巴马总统本周说：＂把我们与那些已经受到迫害并忍受无法想像的艰难的人们脱离开来，是对我们价值观的背叛。＂

Certainly – it would be a betrayal of our Christian values.  In our scripture reading this morning, Paul – in his letter to the church at Rome – reminds us that we are all part of the same body – vitally connected  and dependent upon one another.He says, “We are like the various parts of the human body.  Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around.  Each of us finds our meaning and function as part of the body ....”  And then he concludes, “Love from the centre of who you are ... don’t quit in hard times, pray all the harder;  help those in need;  be inventive in hospitality.”
当然-这将是背叛我们的基督教价值观。 我们读了今天上午的经文中，保罗写给在罗马的教会信中提醒我们，我们在基督里成为一体——也是互相做肢体。他说:「我们就身体有各个肢体，每个肢体在这个整体里都有它的意义，每个人都有存在的意义和作用。＂然后保罗总结到：＂让我们全心爱，在最困难的时候也不要放弃，为困难的人们祷告，为需要帮助的人祷告，客旅要盛情款待。＂

‘Count me in’ is a recognition that we are all beloved children of God;  that we are part of one body – interconnected and enriched by one another;  and that we can do so much more together than we can alone.  And as Christians – it is what we are called to profess by word and deed – whether it is on a small, local level like that of our congregation - or on a global landscape.  As Margaret Mead once said, Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world;  indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”
＂算我一个＂就是认可我们都是上帝所挚爱的儿女：在基督里我们是整体——相互联系和彼此丰富对方。我们团结在一起比单独所能做的要更多。 作为基督徒——它召唤我们信奉言行——无论是在小的地方，像我们的本地教会--或在全球环境中。 正如Margaret Mead曾经说过，从来没有怀疑这一小群的深思熟虑的、履行承诺的公民可以改变世界；的确，它是永远拥有的唯一的东西。＂

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If ever there was a time – this is it – not to quit, to pray all the harder, to help those in need and to be inventive in our hospitality!    Far beyond only a stewardship slogan – ‘count me in!’  becomes a statement of bold decision – a courageous, prophetic and necessary response to our world today.  It is a statement of faith in God and in one another - in the face of all the voices that would have us close ourselves off because of fear of scarcity, fear of an uncertain and unknown future, fear of the ‘other’.
如果曾有一段时间——就是这个——不要放弃，为困难的人们祷告，为需要帮助的人祷告，客旅要盛情款待。＂其深远意义这远远超出了教会筹款活动的口号——“算我一个！＂它将成为一个大胆的决定的宣誓——勇敢的、预言性的和对当今世界的必要的反应。 这是一个对上帝的信仰的宣誓和相互彼此的宣誓---在面对所有因为害怕、恐惧,不确定、未来的恐惧、害怕＂异类＂而把我们自己隔绝开时的宣誓。

I’d like to end this morning with a story – one of the thousands circulating out there these days.  Andrew Lodge, writing in ‘The National Observer’ this week shares of an encounter he had recently:  “I was speaking with a woman in a makeshift refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos – the first point of landfall for many refugees undertaking the harrowing Aegean Sea crossing.  Only an hour before, she had literally stepped off a precarious raft and into Europe.  She was soon joined by her husband and their daughter, who smiled brightly at me.  She appeared to have cerebral palsy and could not walk.  For them, the sea crossing must have been especially harrowing.  The man held her in his arms and stroked her hair gently.  His face was troubled, and he did not make eye contact.  The woman looked at me again.  She was weeping.  “We are friends,”  she said, finally.  ‘Humanity.”

我想用一个故事结束今天的礼拜活动:---这些天这个故事流传很广。 本周Andrew Lodge,在“国家观察”杂志上分享了一个最近他的一个邂逅，在希腊Lebos岛屿是经历了惨痛Aegean海上漂流后登陆的第一个地方。在这有一个临时难民营，有一个妇女我和她聊天，一小时之前，她确实离开了岌岌可危的木筏并进入欧洲。 她和的丈夫和他们的女儿团聚了。她的脸上有洋溢着笑容看着我。 她似乎有脑瘫，不能行走。 对于他们，渡海是特别是惨痛的。 该名男子把她抱在他的两臂并轻轻爱抚着她的头发。 他的脸是忧愁，不敢看她。 这个妇女再次看了看我。 她很悲伤。 ＂我们是朋友，＂她最后说：＂仁慈的朋友。＂