A.M.D.G. World Communion Sunday Text: Philippians 2: 1-13

 October 1st, 2017

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**腓立比书 2:1-13效法基督**2 所以，如果你们在基督里受到鼓励，得到爱的安慰，与圣灵相通，有慈悲和怜悯之心， 2就要同心合意，彼此相爱，灵里合一，思想一致，好让我的喜乐更充足。 3凡事不可自私自利、爱慕虚荣，要心存谦卑，看别人比自己强。 4各人不要只顾自己的事，也要为别人的需要着想。 5你们应当有基督耶稣那样的心肠。6祂虽然本质上是上帝，却没有紧紧抓住自己与上帝平等的地位不放，7反而甘愿放下一切，取了奴仆的形象，降生为人的样子。8祂以人的样子出现后，就自愿卑微，顺服至死，而且死在十字架上。9因此，上帝将祂升为至尊，赐给祂超乎万名之上的名，10使一切天上的、地上的和地底下的，无不屈膝跪拜在耶稣的名下，11无不口称耶稣基督是主，将荣耀归于父上帝。**暗世明灯**12所以，我亲爱的弟兄姊妹，既然我在你们那里的时候，你们一向都很顺服；如今我不在你们那里，你们更要顺服，要战战兢兢地活出得救后应有的生命。 13因为你们立志和行事都是上帝在你们心中工作，为要成就祂美好的旨意。

**能围坐7,517,622,501人的圣餐桌 A Table With** **7,517,622,501 Seats**

This morning, on World Communion Sunday, our worship together centres around the Table. On the first Sunday of October every year, Christians all around the world from all kinds of denominations partake in the sacrament of Communion and remember others around the world who are doing the same.

今天上午，在世界圣餐周日，我们的礼拜一起围绕着桌子。每年10月的第一个星期日，来自世界各地的各种基督徒都会参加基督徒的圣餐，并记得世界各地的人都在做同样的事情。

A lot of important things in life happen around a table. We celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and graduations. There are tables of food and fellowship – family reunions, and social gatherings with neighbours and friends.

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And church occasions like Second Sunday lunch, our Stewardship Turkey Supper coming up in a few weeks, and our Syrian Welcome lunch that is happening today – all centre around food and the table. Even in the social and political realm, many significant decisions are made around the table. Gathering around a table is deeply ingrained in all of us from the time we are infants. It is the symbol for sharing, trust, welcome, family, caring, respect. And the physical food we often share at such times is accompanied by an expression of love, faith, and the offering of friendship. Coming together around the table gives us the sense of community we seek. Tables are one of the most important places of human connection.

教会活动也一样，总是离不了食物和桌子：我们每月的第二周周日有午餐聚会，再过几周有教友火鸡晚餐会，而我们今天的午餐主题是欢迎叙利亚来的朋友。即便是在社交和政治领域，许多重大的决定也是在餐桌上作出的。从我们婴孩时候起，大家围坐在餐桌旁的景象，对我们所有的人都产生了根深蒂固的影响。这代表着分享、信任、欢迎、家庭、关怀和尊敬。我们以分享物质食物的方式来表达爱、信念和友情。围坐到餐桌旁让我们感受到所寻求的社区的存在。餐桌是人与人连接的最重要场所之一。

We shouldn’t be surprised, then, to find that throughout the Bible God has a way of showing up at tables. In fact, it’s worth noting that at the center of the spiritual lives of God’s people in both the Old and New Testaments, we find a table: the table of Passover and the table of Communion.

于是我们毫不奇怪地发现：贯穿整本《圣经》，上帝总有办法在餐桌上显灵。事实上，我们很有意义地注意到：无论旧约还是新约中，在上帝子民的精神生活核心里都能找到餐桌的存在，例如逾越节和圣餐里的桌子

This morning we remember that special occasion around the meal table where Jesus had gathered with some of his closest friends and disciples: *“While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, ‘This is my body, broken for you. And after supper, he took the cup, and invited them to drink: ‘As often as you drink this – remember me.”*

今天早上我们记住特殊的场合，在圣餐桌前，耶稣曾与他的一些最亲密的朋友和门徒： “在他们吃圣餐的时候，耶稣拿了一块面包，祝福后，他掰开了面包，把它交给他的门徒说：‘这是我的身体，为你们掰开。’晚饭后，他拿起杯子，请他们喝：’每当你们喝这杯的时候，当记住我。”

And this morning, we join a long line of people through the centuries, and around the world - gathered now around that same table, with Jesus as our host. That’s a lot of people! And that’s just the Christians! The world population is always a moving target – so when I consulted Google this week, it was standing at 7,517,622,501 – and growing even as we speak. And it strikes me that every one of those people also belong to the family of God – all of them – and have a place around God’s table.

今天上午，我们加入到了跨过几个世纪的长长的队伍。现在，在世界各地的基督徒聚集在同一张圣餐桌子旁，耶稣就是圣餐的主人。有很多很多人！那只是基督徒！世界人口始终是一个移动的目标，所以当我这周到谷歌网站查询的时候，全人类数目达到了7,517,622,501。甚至在我们说话的时候还在增长。我觉得这些人中的每一个人都属于上帝的大家庭 —— 他们所有的人在上帝的圣餐桌旁都要一席之位。

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So who are they? Well, for one – they are wonderfully diverse; they speak a multitude of languages, are all ages, express their sexuality differently and have various coloured skintones. So we can take from all that - God is definitely not boring! And many of them enjoy all different kinds of foods, music, dance and art. They all struggle in some way or another. They will all get sick from time to time – and at some point, all will experience death and grief. But they also celebrate – they laugh and cry, they work and play. We have all that in common. Some will get lost along the way, and some may even be considered evil. But most are good people – and all 7,517,622,501 of them matter in God’s eyes and have a place around the table.

他们是谁？嗯 一 他们是多种多样，他们讲多种语言，不同年龄段，他们的性别不同，有各种颜色的肤色。所以我们可以从这看出 - 上帝是绝对不是单调！他们当中的很多人喜欢不同食物，音乐，舞蹈和艺术。他们都以某种方式奋斗。他们都会时常的生病 – 在某些时候，都会经历死亡和悲伤。但他们也庆祝 – 他们欢笑和哭泣，他们的工作和娱乐。我们都在共同之处。有些人会在途中迷路，甚至被认为是邪恶的。在7,517,622,501人中大部分是好人，在上帝很在意他们，他们在圣餐桌子旁有一席之地。

So how did we get to be so torn – so divided – so separated from each other? From a world perspective - racism, discrimination, prejudice, wars and quests for power, abuse, and violence litter so many of our relationships. Some people starve while many of us throw away food. Some of us sleep in security while others sleep on the streets, in war-shattered ruins of buildings, or in the tents of refugee camps.

那么，我们怎么有 的这些裂痕，分歧，彼此分离，从世界的角度来看 - 种族主义、歧视、偏见、权力、滥用战争和任务，和暴力把我们的关系搞糟了。有人饿死，而我们中的许多人扔掉的食物。我们中的一些人睡得舒服安全的同时，其他人睡在大街上、睡在战后的废墟的建筑物或在难民营的帐篷。

We know all too well what divides us – nation and race, gender and social class. We’re divided by neighbourhood and the ‘luck of the draw’ in terms of birthplace. We’re divided into the ‘haves’ and ‘have-nots’. We’re divided by political parties and religions. We’re divided on social issues such as immigration, Indigenous rights, sexuality, the economy and foreign affairs – to name just a few things.

我们非常清楚是什么使我们分裂——民族和种族、性别和社会阶层。我们根据所居住的区域划分，出生地带着运气色彩。我们被分成“富人”和“穷人”。我们分为政党和宗教。我们在社会问题上有分歧，比如移民、土著权利、性、经济和外交事务等等。

So what is the way across the divides – the divisions – the separations that often threaten to tear us apart? Is there anything that unites us? Gathered around the table this morning we hear words of encouragement from Paul in his letter to the Philippians. He also lived in a world that was torn with division, and under the domination of a world power. Even on a smaller scale – in the church at Philippi, a new Christian community he helped establish – there was conflict and disunity.

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那么，分歧的形式是什么——分歧——分歧会给我们带来彼此分开地威胁。有什么能让我们团结在一起吗？围着圣餐桌旁，我们今天早上听到保罗给腓立比教会的信，很多鼓励的话。他也生活在一个因分歧而彼此分裂、生活在世界强权统治之下。即使在一个小规模的腓立比教会中，他帮助建立的一个新的基督教社团，也存在着冲突和分裂。

And so he offers a framework for reaching across the divisions by urging: “If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus”

所以他提供了一个如何跨越分歧的方法：”如果你们在基督里受到鼓励，得到爱的安慰，与圣灵相通，有慈悲和怜悯之心，好让我的喜乐更充足：就要同心合意，彼此相爱，灵里合一，思想一致。凡事不可自私自利、爱慕虚荣，要心存谦卑，看别人比自己强。 各人不要只顾自己的事，也要为别人的需要着想。 你们应当有基督耶稣那样的心肠。”

For those of us gathered around this Table of Christ today – here and around the world – what would happen if we took Paul’s words of encouragement into ourselves this morning – like we do the bread of Communion – and chew on it, swallow it – so that it nourishes something deep within – our words, our actions, our relationships, our lives? “Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the

same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus”

对于我们这些聚集在基督圣餐桌旁的人 – 基督就在这里和就在世界各地的 – 如果我们采纳了保罗那些话，就像我们这样用圣餐 – 吃面包并吞下它，滋养内心深处 – 我们的话，我们的行动，我们的关系，我们的生活将会发生什么样的变化？。

What if we recommitted right here and right now – to truly sharing a seat at the table with all 7,517,622,501 (and growing) of God’s children in this world? Would we speak to each other with more respect? Would we talk less and learn more from each other? Would we look beyond our own needs to the common good – with more emphasis on the most vulnerable in our midst?

如果我们在这里和就在此时再次承诺 – 真正与7,517,622,501（还在增加）的上帝儿女一起共享坐在圣餐桌旁，会是怎样？

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When we gather around the Table – and particularly today on this World Communion Sunday as we join others doing the same around the globe – holding hands across the divides and the differences – we catch a glimpse of what is possible as children of God. If only for this brief moment, together we can encircle our lives and our world with the love that Jesus showed us and to which the apostle Paul points us in scripture. As we break the bread and lift the cup, we can light again our candles of hope – and move out into the darkness of this torn world to spread our light – one spark at a time.

May it be so!

当我们围坐在圣餐桌旁，– 尤其是今天这个世界圣餐主日，当我们与世界各地的基督徒一起享用圣餐，– 牵手跨越的鸿沟和差异 – 我们看了作为上帝的儿女什么是可能的。如果只有这短暂的一刻，我们可以一起用基督的爱环绕着我们的生活和世界，这也是保罗在经文中告诉我们的。当我们掰开面包和举杯的时候，我们可以重新点燃我们的希望之烛 – 走入这个黑暗的破碎的世界，的同时传播我们的光 一 每次一个火花。但愿是这样！