A.M.D.G.彰显主荣 May 27th, 2018 经文Text: 路加Luke 24: 44-53

 牧师VAL在WPGUC最后的周日 Val’s Last Sunday at WPGUC

**Luke 24: 44-53**  Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah\* is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and were continually in the temple blessing God.

**路加福音 24:44-53**

**44**主对他们说：“这就是我从前与你们同在的时候，对你们说过的话：摩西的律法、先知书和诗篇上所记关于我的一切事，都必定应验。” **45**于是他开他们的心窍，使他们明白圣经； **46**又说：“经上这样记着：基督必须受害，第三天从死人中复活。 **47**人要奉他的名，传讲悔改与赦罪的道，从耶路撒冷起，直传到万国。 **48**你们就是这些事的见证。 **49**我要使我父的应许临到你们身上，你们当在城里等候，直到得着从上面来的能力。”**50**主带他们出去，到了伯大尼附近，举手给他们祝福。 **51**正在祝福的时候，他就离开他们，被接到天上去了。 **52**他们就敬拜他，欢欢喜喜地回到耶路撒冷， **53**常常在殿里称颂　神。

**结束是新的开启In Our End Is Our Beginning**

Last Sunday after church, I went to see the retrospective of the paintings of Karen Dawes – a tribute to her and her art by her family on this first anniversary of her passing. When I arrived, I met several others from the church, including Ping and Rong, Joseph and Catherine and Clover. As we stood around chatting, Joseph made the comment to me: *“I hadn’t realized that you had been at West Point Grey United Church for 12 years. You know – the number 12 in Chinese culture is very significant. It symbolizes completion – the end of one cycle and the beginning of another.”* He reminded me that in the Chinese calendar, the years are each given the name of an animal – 12 in total. And when one cycle is finished, another begins.

上周日教堂之后，我去看了卡伦道斯的画作回顾展，这是她的家庭在她逝世一周年纪念日之际向她和她的艺术致敬。 当我到达的时候，我遇到了教堂里的其他几个人，包括萍和蓉，约瑟夫和凯瑟琳以及科洛弗。 当我们站在一边聊天时，约瑟夫对我说：“我没有意识到你已经在West Point Grey教堂工作了12年。 你知道 - 中国文化中的数字12是非常重要的。 它象征着完成--- 一个周期的结束和另一个周期的开始。“他提醒我说，在中国的日历中，每个年份都有一个动物的名字 - 总共有12个。 当一个周期结束时，另一个周期开始。

Just one more among many things that I have learned from our Chinese community. I think I knew that at one level, because we have celebrated the lunar New Year for a number of years now. But Joseph’s comment put it into a meaningful perspective for me and provided a framework for looking back at my time here at West Point Grey United. I found it really helpful to see the 12 years of my ministry here symbolizing a sense of completion – the ending of one cycle and the beginning of another.

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在我从华人社区学到的很多东西中，还有更多。 我想我知道在一个层面上是这样的，因为我们已经庆祝了农历新年好几年了。 但约瑟夫的评论为我提供了一个有意义的观点，并提供了一个回顾我在West Point Grey联合教堂的时间的框架。 我发现它真的很有帮助地让我看到我在这里12年的牧师意味着圆满完成 - 一个周期的结束和另一个周期的开始。

And they have been good years – filled with much laughter and tears, joys and sorrows, challenging times and joyful ones. We have accompanied one another on the faith journey – welcoming new people along the way, and saying goodbye to others. Together, we have explored what it means to be beloved children of God and followers of Jesus in the context of our own lives and the wider world of today. We have opened our doors and our hearts to those from other cultures – learning and growing in relationship, understanding, and friendship with each other. And along the way, we have supported and cared for one another, shared in worship and study and fellowship together, joined our voices in song, and our hands in doing the ministry to which we have been called in this community of faith, in this place. It has been a full and rich cycle of spiritual life together – and I am profoundly grateful for these last 12 years.

它们都是美好的岁月 —— 充满欢笑和泪水，欢乐和悲伤，充满挑战和快乐的时光。我们在信仰的旅程中相互陪伴 —— 沿途欢迎新朋友，也与他人道别。我们一起探索在我们自己的生活和今天更广阔的世界中，作为上帝的爱子和耶稣的追随者意味着什么。我们向来自其他文化的人们敞开大门，并向他们敞开心扉 —— 相互学习，不断加深彼此的关系，理解和友谊。一路走来，我们互相支持，互相关心，在敬拜、学习和团契时分享，加入我们的歌唱，在这里，这个充满信仰的社区，我们得到召唤共同携手传道。这是一个充实而丰富的精神生活周期 —— 对过去十二年的生活我心怀感激。

But as in all things – one cycle must end before a new one begins. That is the circle of life – and it holds both sorrow and a sense of loss, as well as the promise of hope and new possibility. Jesus knew that as well. In this Ascension reading today from the Gospel of Luke, the resurrected Christ is saying goodbye to his disciples and offering words of encouragement and blessing.

但就像所有的事情一样 —— 一个周期必须在一个新的周期开始之前结束。这就是生命的循环 ——它既有悲伤和失落感，也有希望和新的可能性的承诺。耶稣也知道这一点。今天，从《路加福音》中所读到的耶稣升天，复活的基督在向他的门徒道别，并对他们说着鼓励和祝福的话语。

I am always struck by how, in Luke’s account of this story, Jesus chooses to leave from Bethany. It is a beloved place of memory for him. It is a place to which Jesus withdrew for rest and refreshment on more than one occasion; it is in Bethany that he found hospitality in the home of his close friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus; here that he received the gift of a woman’s anointing shortly before his death. Bethany has been a blessing for Jesus, and stands as a place of healing, restoration, hospitality and friendship.

在路加对这个故事的叙述中，我总是为耶稣选择离开伯大尼而感到惊讶。对耶稣来说，这是他所心爱的值得怀念的地方。是他不止一次退隐，休息，恢复精力的地方；在伯大尼，他在密友玛丽，玛莎和拉撒路的家里受到热情款待；在这里，他在临死前收到了一位妇女的膏礼。伯大尼一直都是耶稣的福地，并且是一个疗伤，恢复，好客和友谊的地方。

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And for Jesus’ companions, Bethany conjures memories that Jesus wants them to draw on in the days ahead. For them as well, it has been a place that has intertwined hospitality, friendship and a profound sense of the abiding presence of God – and he wants these gifts to remain with them, along with his spirit of love. And so, from this place of blessing, Jesus takes his leave, offering in turn, a blessing of his own as he goes. *“While he was blessing them,”* Luke tells us*, “Jesus withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.”* (24:51)

对于耶稣的门徒来说，伯大尼唤起了他们的记忆 - 就是耶稣希望他们在未来的日子里继续向前。对他们来说，伯 大尼也是一个把好客、友谊和对上帝永恒存在的深刻感觉交织在一起的地方- 他希望这些礼物和他的爱的精神一起留在门徒的身边。于是，耶稣从这个赐福的地方离开了，在离开的时候又把祝福给到门徒们。路加说：“*正在祝福的时候，他就离开他们，被接到天上去了。”* (路加福音24:51)

Isn’t it interesting to note that the blessing is part of the leaving. And somehow, the leaving is part of the blessing! His departure – and the way he enters into it – is part of Jesus’ final gift to his friends. In much the same way that Jesus tells Mary Magdalene on Easter morning not to hold onto him – here, at his Asc ension, Jesus urges his disciples – his friends – to enter into a new relationship with him that will no longer depend on his physical presence, but will rely instead, on trusting in his love and growing into the people and community he has called them to become. It is time for them to become his body – to continue his transforming work of love in the world. “*You are my witnesses of these things,”* he reminds them, *“And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised”* (24:48-49) – that is, the Holy Spirit:

值得注意的是，祝福是离开的一部分，而离开又是祝福的一部分，这难道不是很有趣吗？他的离去，以及他来到世界的方式 – 都是耶稣送给他朋友的最后礼物的一部分。就像耶稣在复活节早晨告诉抹大拉的马利亚：不要只留恋与耶稣在一起的时候。在这里，就在他的升天时，耶稣敦促他的门徒 - 他的朋友们 - 与他建立一种新的关系，不能再依赖于耶稣，而是更将依赖坚信耶稣的爱，并成长成为耶稣想要他们成为的人和社区。现在是门徒们要成为耶稣的身体的时候了- 继续他在这个世界上的爱的转化工作。***”****你们就是这些事的见证。 我要使我父的应许临到你们身上，你们当在城里等候，直到得着从上面来的能力。”* (路加福音24:48-49) - 这就是圣灵。

 - the Breath of God; 神的气息

 - the Wind of change; 变化的风

 - the Power of love; 爱的力量

 - the Guide to the future; 未来的指引

 - the Opener of doors. 开启的们

Our scripture this morning reminds us that joyful, sorrowful, bittersweet; planned or unexpected; welcomed or resisted or grieved; no matter how a leave-taking happens, it always brings an invitation to blessing, and makes space for the Spirit to open new doors.

我们今天早上的经文提醒我们，快乐，悲伤，苦乐参半；有计划的或出乎意料的；受欢迎的，抗拒的，或悲伤的；无论离别如何发生，它总会是带来祝福，并为圣灵打开新的大门。

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In the words of the hymn we sang earlier: “*In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity; in our doubt, there is believing; in our life, eternity; from the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery – unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.”* The seeds of potential are always present in every ending – sending shoots of possibility into new beginnings. Things are never the same – but all the richness that has been gained from love and friendship given, from faith expressed, and cherished memories and experiences shared – is never lost. It becomes the fertile ground out of which something new begins to sprout and grow.

用我们早先唱过的赞美诗中的词：*“结束就是新的起点，在我们的时间中，有无限；在我们的怀疑中，有信仰；在我们的生命中，有永恒；过去将成为未来；它所拥有的，是神秘的东西 - 直到它的季节它才显露出来，只有上帝能看见的东西。”*在每一个结束中总是存在着潜在的种子 — 把可能性注入新的开端。没有完全同样的事情，但从爱情和友谊中得到的所有丰富，从信仰的表达和珍爱的记忆和经验中获得丰富 – 他们永远不会失去的。它会变成肥沃的土壤，新的东西开始萌芽生长。

The last 12 years here at West Point Grey United have been a blessing to me in many ways – and I will always cherish the friendships I’ve made, the faith and ideas we’ve explored together, and the laughter and tears we’ve shared. These seeds of blessing I will carry with me on the next stage of my journey of life and faith. And I pray that the seeds of what we have been together here will also blossom and grow into the new beginnings to which ***you*** are called as a family of faith here at West Point Grey.

在West Point Grey联合教会的过去12年里，在很多方面对我来说都是一种祝福 - 我将永远珍惜我所建立的友谊，我们共同探索的信念和想法，以及我们共同分享的欢笑和泪水。这些祝福的种子将带着我踏上人生旅程和信仰的下一阶段。我祈祷我们在一起的种子也会开花，成长为新的开始，就在West Point Grey***你们***被称为信仰之家。

Thank you for the blessing you have been to me. And may God continue to guide and bless us both in the days ahead.

感谢你们对我的祝福，愿上帝在未来的日子里继续引导和祝福我们。