

願你的國降臨

九天（連續）禱期



彼得前書的反思

坎特伯里大主教
賈斯汀·韋爾比

簡介

今日是升天節，復活的主當天曾吩咐門徒，傳福音給萬民聽，更加要等候聖靈的能力。因此普世聖公宗由肯特伯里大主教及約克大主教共同發起一個名為「願你的國降臨」祈禱運動，鼓勵全世界基督徒在升天節至聖靈降臨節期間，集中為五位親友能更認識主耶穌基督而祈禱。

讓大家先寫下五位親友名字，在未來十天，專心為他們禱告！

這九天的聖言日糧，是今年肯特伯里大主教韋爾比，以彼得前書為題，為「願你的國降臨」祈禱運動而寫的靈修資料。

Introduction

In the days between Ascension and Pentecost, it has been the habit of many Christians, for many centuries, to make the focus of our prayers the same as those first believers. Christ's last instruction to His disciples on the day of His Ascension is to 'wait for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4). 12 Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives... 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying.. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Acts 1:12-14

The instruction to wait for the Holy Spirit is so important because without the Spirit's empowering presence, it is impossible to be a faithful witness to Christ. We need this gift of the Father to be the people Christ is calling us to be. The Spirit then isn't for some private experience, but for the sake of our life for Christ in the world.

Thy Kingdom Come encourages each of us to hold five specific people in mind in these days; so that the gift of the Father would work through us for their sake, but also would touch their own lives. I encourage you now to spend a few moments discerning who you might specifically pray for in these days, and maybe write their names opposite in the space provided.

This Novena seeks to enable you in your waiting for the gift the Father promised, by focusing on nine particular verses in the first letter of St Peter – one of those present in that upper room. Each day we will take one of those verses and seek to be shaped by it. 1 Peter is one of my favourite books, and provides the themes for the Lambeth Conference this summer. It's a book which opens our hearts to God and lifts our eyes to the worldwide family of God.

I am so grateful to *Anna Heslop* who has created the most stunning images to go with the verse for each day. I pray that these words and pictures together open up space for you to wait for the gift the Father has promised.



香港聖公會「聖言日糧」
2022年5月26日 升天日
聖公宗全球祈禱運動「願祢的國降臨」

[經文 - 和修上帝版]
彼得前書 1:1-2

韋爾比大主教

做基督徒，就是注定要與眾不同。彼得寫的第一封信，是寫給流亡在異地的人，這些群體生活在小亞細亞，即是現今的土耳其西部，過着異邦人的生活，與當地人格格不入。這些人深深體會在身處的環境裏，他們只是個異鄉客，受盡排擠及騷擾。

不過，彼得這封信的對象，過的卻是另一種意義的流亡。作為基督徒我們被流放在地上，離開了我們天上永恆的家鄉，離開了我們的父親。

做基督徒，就是有了與別不同的身分。我們並不是根據來自哪個家庭、屬於哪個國家民族、或者擁有多少錢，來判定我們是誰；也並不是靠那些有時自以為能告訴我們—「我們是誰」的外物來定義我們的身分。我們作為已領洗的人，就是在「基督裏」的人，這是於受洗之時，那一刻，已經賦予我們的奧義，並且直等到完全實現。我們蒙召，就是單單從耶穌基督裏找到這個真正屬於自己的身分。

彼得的讀者是那些被人放逐，卻被上帝所揀選的人。這些群體也許在世上受到辱罵，卻藉着聖靈得以成聖。基督徒不會把地上任何的權勢、世上任何的領袖，視為最高的權威。我們只順服耶穌。

這一切能夠成為事實，是因為有了聖靈的恩賜。

我們熱切地為其他人祈禱，要他們將心思意念轉向基督之時，自己也要撫心自問：我們過日子的方式，可有顯出我們與眾不同？我們的見證，可有令人對信仰生出好奇，感到興趣，而不是令人抗拒？我怎樣依照耶穌基督的福音過與人不同的生活？其他人看出些甚麼？聽到些甚麼？

彼得的讀者，是一群有血有肉的人，在生活中遇到實實在在的困難，但他憑着上帝豐盛的恩惠與平安，向他們問好。但願你今日開始過這個旅程之時，也把恩惠平安帶給每個你遇見的人。

反思

1. 今天信徒不論是不是分散在各地寄居，我們都有一共同身份，就是被上帝揀選，被聖靈潔淨，順服基督的天國公民！認清這個身份，基督徒對世界上的權力和領袖，應該怎樣看待？
2. 在接受了基督耶穌的福音後，我們人生有甚麼改變？這些改變又如何吸引別人追隨信仰？

禱文

我們的天父上帝啊！雖然我們在世本是客旅，是寄居的，但卻蒙祢的揀選，因聖靈能力，成為聖潔。求主使我們不會以世俗追求為人生目標，求祢使我們能跟隨主的大愛，藉著生活的見證吸引人認識主！祈禱奉賴為我們灑寶血，救贖我們的主基督而求，阿們！

HKSKH “The Daily Word”

2022.05.26 Ascension Day

Anglican Communion “Thy Kingdom Come”

Readings from NIV

1 Peter 1:1–2

Archbishop Justin Welby

To be a Christian is to be marked out as ‘different’. In his First Letter the apostle Peter writes to an exiled people, communities who are living as strangers and foreigners in Asia Minor. These people knew what it was like to be alien in their society – harassed and rejected.

But Peter is also writing to a people who are exiled in a different sense: as Christians, we spend our lives on Earth in exile, separated from our eternal home in Heaven with the Father.

To be a Christian is to have been given a different identity to others: rather than defining ourselves according to our family, our nationality, how much money we have, or any of the other things we sometimes think make us who we are, we, the baptised, are ‘in Christ’, a deep truth which is both given and yet to be fully realised. We are called to find our identity solely in the person of Jesus Christ.

Peter speaks to those who are exiled but chosen by God. These communities may be reviled on Earth, but they are sanctified – made holy – by the Spirit. Christians are a people who do not consider earthly powers and leaders to be the ultimate source of authority: we are obedient to Jesus.

All this is only made possible by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As we pray fervently for others to turn their hearts and minds for Christ, let us start by asking: how do we live in a way that marks us out as different? Does our witness make people curious about faith, rather than resistant to it? How do I live my life differently because of the Good News of Jesus Christ, and how do others see and hear that?

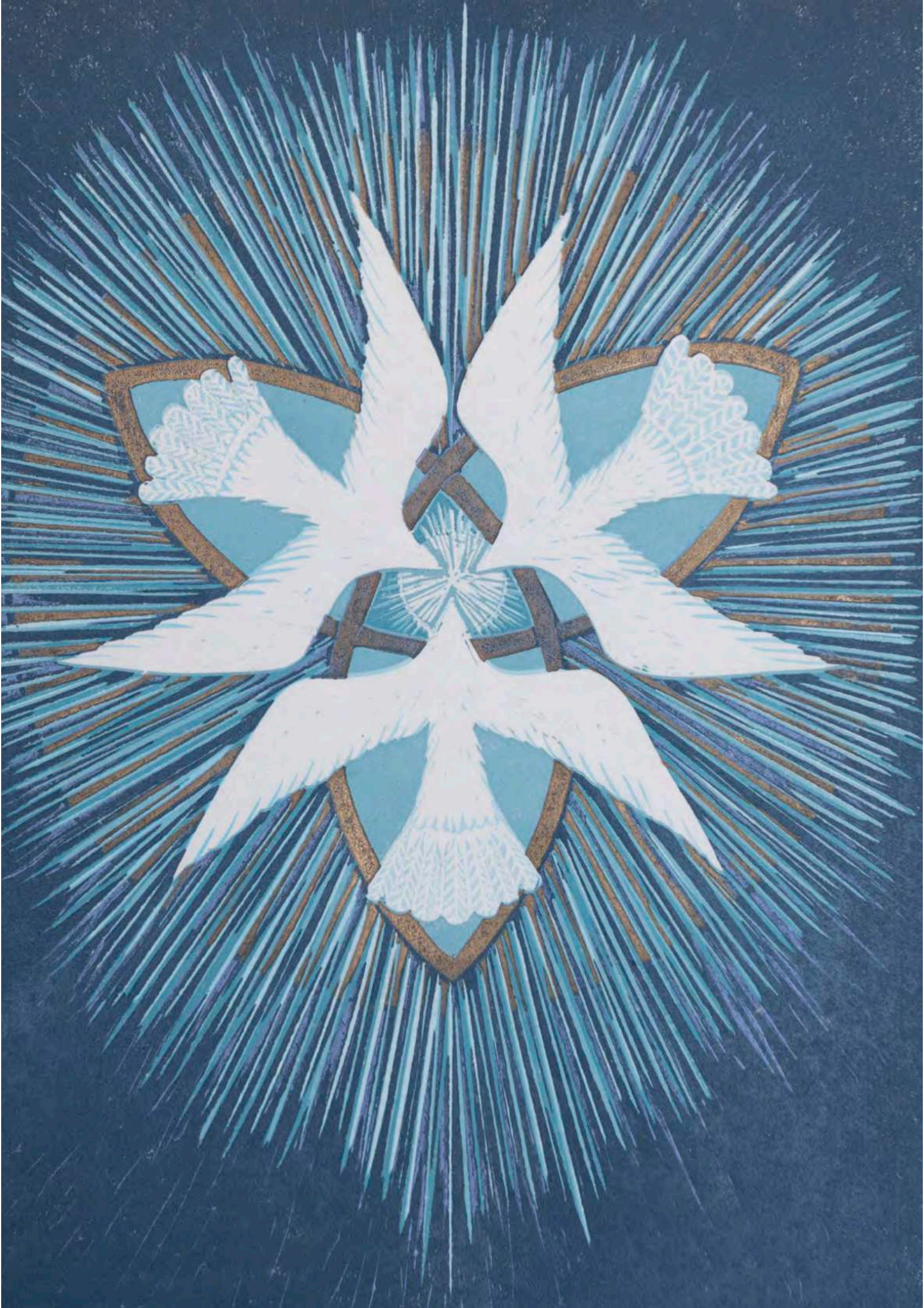
Peter speaks to real communities facing real problems, but he greets them in the light of God’s abundant grace and peace. May you bring that grace and peace to all you meet as you begin this journey today.

Reflection

1. Christians today share the same identity despite we are scattered in different part of the world - we are the citizens of God’s Kingdom which are chosen by God, cleansed by the Spirit and thus obey Christ! Since we recognise such identity, how should Christian look upon the powers and authorities in this world?
2. How did the Gospel of Jesus Christ change our lives? How does such changes draw others to faith?

Prayer

O God our Father in heaven! You have chosen us and make us holy through the spirit, despite we are strangers and foreigners on the earth. Make us not to set our life goals for secular pursuit, so we can observe the great love of the Lord, and draw people to the Lord through bearing witness in our daily lives. In the name of Christ our Lord who shed His blood to redeem us. Amen!



香港聖公會「聖言日糧」

2022年5月27日

聖公宗全球祈禱運動「願祢的國降臨」

[經文 - 和修上帝版]

彼得前書 1:12

韋爾比大主教

我們每一個人都在尋找生命的意義，亦在生命中尋求某些東西。也許我們渴望被愛，或被接納，或期望被人看到真正的自己。我們可能希望了解自己是誰，以及為什麼我們生在這世上。縱使我們未必察覺到，我們會渴望更親近上帝——我們的創造者，皆因上帝在創造我們時，已賦予尋找這意義的渴望。而只有認識祂賦予我們生命的意義時，才可以滿足這份渴求，就如聖奧古斯丁的名言：「上主啊，祢為自己創造了我們，我們的心除非在祢裡面，否則永無安息。」

每個活過一些日子的人都深知這等待所帶來的嘆息。在今天的經課中，彼得談及先知們也在尋索：「查考在他們心裏的基督的靈是指甚麼的時候，甚麼樣的情況」（彼得前書 1:11）。儘管基督還未出生，聖靈就在先知裡面，使他們能夠預言上帝所賜最寶貴的禮物，就是主基督耶穌——上帝與我們同在。

現在主基督耶穌已顯現，這好消息已傳開。在超過二千五百年前，因先知竭力接近上帝，我們才得以被服事和認識這救恩。但我們不應只讓身邊的人知道祂這偉大的應許，而是把福音傳承，讓將來渴望尋求上帝的人都能得著。

令人意想不到的，我們最渴望的東西已經白白地賜給我們。我們所尋求的上帝不只是來到世上與我們一起生活，而是為我們犧牲！我們已藉著從天上差來的聖靈得到這好消息，連天使也渴望了解這救贖的神蹟。

上帝藉所賜的禮物使萬物都得拯救，先知尋找它，天使也切望察看！雖然上帝知道我們渴望祂的臨在，但相比祂對我們的渴想，真是微不足道。因此緣故，上帝就給我們差派祂的兒子、並賜給我們聖靈。

請為五位對象懇切祈禱，你看到他們在尋覓什麼東西？你能否像舊約的先知那樣發光，幫助他們尋到生命中的珍寶？你會怎樣以你一生尋求的經歷，去指引更多人信靠上帝？當上帝向我們伸手的時候，我們願意回應祂嗎？

反思

1. 好消息有時會因人而異。基督徒所謂的福音(好消息)是甚麼？你是否已經領略過這福音的真理和實在呢？
2. 你會如何回應這「連天使也都切望察看」的福音的呼籲呢？那些等候著我們的服事；給他們好消息的又是誰呢？

禱文

全能永生的上帝，祢曾差遣祢的愛子降臨世間，宣告上帝愛世人和天國來臨的好消息(福音)。求祢幫助我們，一方面為基督作見證，引人歸主進入祢永遠的國；一方面致力改善社會，使祢的國早日完全實現。藉著祢的愛子我們的救主耶穌基督之名求，阿們。

HKSKH “The Daily Word”

2022.05.27

Anglican Communion “Thy Kingdom Come”

Readings from NIV

1 Peter 1:12

Archbishop Justin Welby

Every single person seeks meaning for their life. All of us go through life searching for something. Perhaps we long to be loved, or accepted, or seen for who we really are. Maybe we yearn to understand who we are ourselves, and why we’re here on this Earth. We desire to be closer to our God and creator, even if we aren’t aware of it. We have this desire for meaning because this is how God has made us. And it is only his meaning which fulfils our searching. ‘You have made us O Lord for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you,’ as St Augustine famously put it.

Everyone who has ever lived has known this ache of longing. In today’s verse, Peter talks about the prophets. They were searching too: ‘inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated’ (1 Peter 1:11). Even though Christ was not yet born, the Holy Spirit was within them, enabling them to anticipate God’s greatest gift, Christ Jesus – God with us.

Now that person is revealed, the good news announced; and we are served, we learn, by those prophets who strove to be closer to God, over two and a half thousand years ago. Such is the wonder of God that we don’t just make his promise known to those around us, but we can build a chain that may help those seeking long after we are gone.

And the truly astonishing news is that what we long for most has been given to us freely. The God we search for has not only come to us and lived with us; but died for us! We have been brought the good news by the Holy Spirit, sent from heaven! Even the angels have a longing, to look closer into the wonder of our salvation.

Through this gift all are drawn towards salvation. The prophets searched for it. The angels long to look into it! God knows that we long for His presence, but our longing for him is but a pale reflection of his longing for us. That is why he sent His son. It’s why He gives us His spirit.

Calling to mind the five who are the focus of your prayers, what do you detect of their searching? How might you shine light, as the prophets of the Old Testament did, that helps direct people towards the treasure they seek? How can your search – which will last all of your life – point more people towards the God that extends his hand to us, and hopes we might clasp it back?

Reflection

1. The meaning of good news varies from person to person. For Christians, what is Gospel (good news)? Have you experienced the truth of Gospel?
2. How do you respond to the calling of Gospel that “even the angels long to look into these things”? Who are those waiting for us to serve and spread the good news?

Prayer

Almighty God, You sent Your beloved Son to the world, proclaiming the good news of God’s love and the coming of Your kingdom of heaven (Gospel). Help us bear witness to Christ and lead people to enter Your eternal kingdom; grant us strength to make changes to the society so Your kingdom will be fulfilled on earth. In the name of Your son Jesus Christ our saviour we pray, Amen.



香港聖公會「聖言日糧」

2022年5月28日

聖公宗全球祈禱運動「願祢的國降臨」

[經文 - 和修上帝版]

彼得前書 2:2

韋爾比大主教

嬰兒甫出生，就要面對陌生而殘酷的新世界，並完全依賴那些照顧他們的人。他們的需求簡單——食物、溫暖、愛。嬰兒依靠他人而活，軟弱無助，這令我們想起基督，甘願為了我們——這些真正無助的人——而使自己變得渺小和無助。昔日，閱讀彼得書信的信徒也是生活在一個陌生、殘酷而混亂的世界裏，唯一的安慰來自上帝。

但是嬰兒會長大，並有望成為社會上有智慧、善良且有貢獻的一員——但只有在照顧他們的人的滋養下。聖經中的“奶”通常代表祝福和豐盛：母親因着愛，無條件乳養自己的孩子，並不需要孩子去努力爭取。

奶是生命的泉源、是關懷的象徵，也很容易消化：如果你給剛出生的孩子吃肉，他們沒有牙齒，根本不能咀嚼。

就這樣，當我們來到基督面前，我們就重生了。我們以上帝兒女的身分，開始新的生活。上帝給予空間，培育我們成長、成熟，這個過程將達一生之久，並需要這靈奶維持我們基督徒的生活。

這靈奶是甚麼？它如何餵養我們，讓我們在新生活中成長？

我認為是上帝的話語——通過聖經，以及聖靈在我們心中的呼召。我們是脆弱的，但祂的話語使我們堅強。我們飢渴難耐，唯有祂能滿足我們。我們被仇恨和分裂圍困，但祂豐富的祝福向我們展示了愛和喜樂的可能性。

當我們在靈裏得力，我們可以召喚他人，讓他們也從上帝的話語中得到滋養。我們可以將上帝的愛傳揚給身邊的人，使他們重新得力。我們記念的五個朋友，他們的需用都是上帝賜予的。

基督呼召我們像孩子一樣，不要依仗自己，但只要單靠上帝的應許、耶穌的榜樣和聖靈的同在。讓我們懷著赤子之心，依靠上帝來滋養我們，在祂的救恩中成長。

反思

1. 初生嬰孩需要吃奶、溫暖和愛才能成長。我們在基督裏重生，也像嬰孩一樣需要純淨的靈奶和耶穌基督的救恩，生命才能得到滋養成長，成為新造的人。純淨的靈奶就是上帝的話語和聖靈的同在。試想想今天有甚麼會攔阻你去愛慕和尋求他們呢？
2. 基督徒生活在紛亂和悖逆的世代，可以依靠甚麼來抵禦風浪、克勝困難呢？

禱文

天父啊！我們蒙祢呼召，重生得救，求祢叫我們知道需要甚麼，就是上帝的話語和聖靈的力量，謙卑受教，以致我們的生命得以滋養成長，克服一切艱難困擾，為主作工，作美好的見證。奉主名求，阿們。

HKSKH “The Daily Word”

2022.05.28

Anglican Communion “Thy Kingdom Come”

Readings from
1 Peter 2:2 (NRSV)

Archbishop Justin Welby

Babies, born into a strange and harsh new world, are utterly reliant on those who give them care. Their needs and instincts are very basic – food, warmth, love. For these things they are dependent on others, helpless, weak. We call to mind the image of the Christ-child, the God who made Himself small and helpless for the sake of us who are truly helpless without Him. Those Peter are writing to also live in this strange and harsh world, a world where we go wrong, where the only comfort is from God.

But babies grow. Hopefully they become wise, kind, productive members of society – but only with the nourishment of those who care for them. ‘Milk’ in the Bible often represents blessing and abundance: a mother gives her milk freely, out of love, whenever the child needs it, without condition, without needing to ‘earn’ or ‘deserve’ it.

It’s a source of life, a sign of care, but it’s also easy to digest. If you give a child meat as soon as they are born, they won’t have the teeth to chew it.

Just so, when we come to Christ, we are born again. We begin a new life as children of God. God gives us space for growth, for maturing, for nurturing – a process which lasts our entire lives. We never outgrow the milk, for what we start with on this journey sustains us throughout our lives as Christians.

What is this milk, which strengthens and feeds us to grow in this new life?

I think it is the word of God – through scripture, and the call of the Holy Spirit on our hearts. We are fragile, but His word strengthens us. We hunger and thirst, and only He can satisfy us. We are surrounded by hatred and division, but His abundant blessing shows us the possibility of love and joy.

Out of the experience of all that has been given to strengthen us, we can call others, and let them be nourished in turn. We can spread the love of God so that those around us might also be strengthened and succoured by His word. What those five friends who we hold before God most deeply need, is given by God.

Christ calls us to be child-like, to lean not on ourselves, but on the promise of God, the person of Jesus, and the presence of the Spirit. Let us be like children, in our simple need for, and dependence on, God alone to strengthen and nourish us, as we grow towards His salvation.

Reflection

1. Newborn babies need milk, warmth and love to grow. Like babies, we are born again in Christ, and also need pure spiritual milk, which is the word of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the salvation of Jesus Christ for our lives to be nourished. What would stop you from seeking this milk today?
2. Christians live in a chaotic and rebellious age. What can we rely on to withstand storms and overcome difficulties?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we have been called by You to be born again. Show us what we really need, which is the word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Humble our hearts, Lord, and teach us, so that we can nourish and grow in life. Help us work diligently for You and overcome all difficulties and troubles, so that we can bear a good witness to Your love. In the name of the Lord we pray. Amen.



香港聖公會「聖言日糧」

2022年5月30日

聖公宗全球祈禱運動「願祢的國降臨」

[經文 - 和修上帝版]

彼得前書 2:5

韋爾比大主教

在一所建築物中，每一塊磚頭都是不可或缺的。基督說，我們每個人都是他教會的活石，大家相互依賴，並在整個結構（教會）中發揮根本作用。

當你建造任何建築物時，你要從地基開始。如果地基不深不穩，任何結構都不會牢固。作為基督徒，作為上帝建造的活石，我們唯一的根基就是耶穌基督。作為教會的活石和我們自己的枯木結構之間的區別，就在於我們需要每天更新、深化和頌讚我們在基督裡的根基——否則我們就會與支撐我們的力量分離。一旦我們不堅持耶穌作為我們一生的根基，我們就會潰敗（垮倒）。

在彼得寫作的地方，建築物本來是人們炫耀他們的權力和地位的一種方式。與今天沒有什麼不同，人們會建造精美的紀念碑來表示成功、力量和社會地位。但彼得所說的基督徒卻無權無勢。他們無法與這些宏偉的展示競爭，也無法通過建造令人印象深刻的崇拜場所來闡述他們對上帝大能的信仰。

請把這些話牢記在心，對彼得來說你能否建造巨大的靈宮或為上帝豎立偉大的紀念碑，這似乎並不重要。上帝不在乎這些外在的表現。他想要的石頭是「被人所丟棄，卻是上帝所揀選、所珍貴的」（彼得前書 2:4）。上帝想要被拋棄的、被扔掉、不被愛的、被拒絕的。這些人的生命可成為祂的偉大見證。上帝為我們每個人都預備了一席位，當我們融合成為上帝的屬靈之家時，我們的生命，我們的身體，我們的存在便成為上帝更新力量的見證。

成為一塊活石就是用我們的生命榮耀上帝，而不是為建立自己的榮耀或力量。這是改變我們理解權力和地位的方式。這是去上帝需要我們去的地方。它是更新（改變）和被更新（改變）——從受冷落、被漠視（忽略）和壓迫——到成為上帝神聖計劃的一部分。作為上帝子民，我們就要活在生命的聖言中，而每個人在這方面都有重要的位份。你以禱告向上帝交托的五個人，要在祂的建築（造）中佔有重要的位置。聖靈能給他們幫助。

反思

1. 我們基督徒應該以主基督作為生命的根基。然而我們的生命有否每天為主而深化，更新並藉此與主耶穌有更密切的聯繫呢？
2. 既然我們是被建立在耶穌這塊活石上的屬靈聖殿，我們是否不再倚靠以往世俗的眼光，標準和榮譽？而願意與教會不同的肢體彼此建立，互相支持，來見證上主的福音呢？

禱文

慈愛的天父，感謝祢讓聖子耶穌基督，成為我們生命的活石根基。求祢把我們建立在這根基上，成為靈宮，不是榮耀自己，乃是彰顯基督。更使我們的生命日日更新，謙遜仁愛，建立教會。因主耶穌基督之名，懇求天父俯聽我們的禱告。阿們。

HKSKH “The Daily Word”

2022.05.30

Anglican Communion “Thy Kingdom Come”

Readings from NIV

1 Peter 2:5

Archbishop Justin Welby

In a building, each and every brick is essential. Christ says that each and every one of us is a living stone of his church, dependent on one another and with a fundamental part to play in the structure.

When you build something, you start with the foundation. No structure will ever hold if the foundations aren't deep and sure. As Christians, as living stones in the construction of God, we have one foundation: Jesus Christ. The difference between being the living stones of the Church, and dead wood of our own construction, is the need to renew, deepen and celebrate our foundations in Christ every day – otherwise we risk becoming separated from that which holds us up. We crumble as soon as we do not hold fast to Jesus as our foundation throughout our lives.

In the places to which Peter is writing, buildings would have been a way for people to show off their power and status. Not unlike today, people would build elaborate monuments, physical structures which denoted success, strength, and social standing. But the Christians Peter addresses were powerless. They would not have been able to compete with these displays of grandeur, or to celebrate their faith in the power of God through building impressive places of worship.

Taking these words to heart it would seem that for Peter it does not matter if you cannot build huge temples or erect great monuments to God. God does not care about these outward displays. The stones He wants are ‘rejected by humans but chosen by God’ (1 Peter 2:4). God wants the outcast, the unwanted, the unloved, the rejected. These are the people whose lives can be testament to his greatness. Our lives, our bodies, our very being, become that which bears witness to the transformative power of God who has a place for each one of us. And this happens as we are built together into a spiritual house for God.

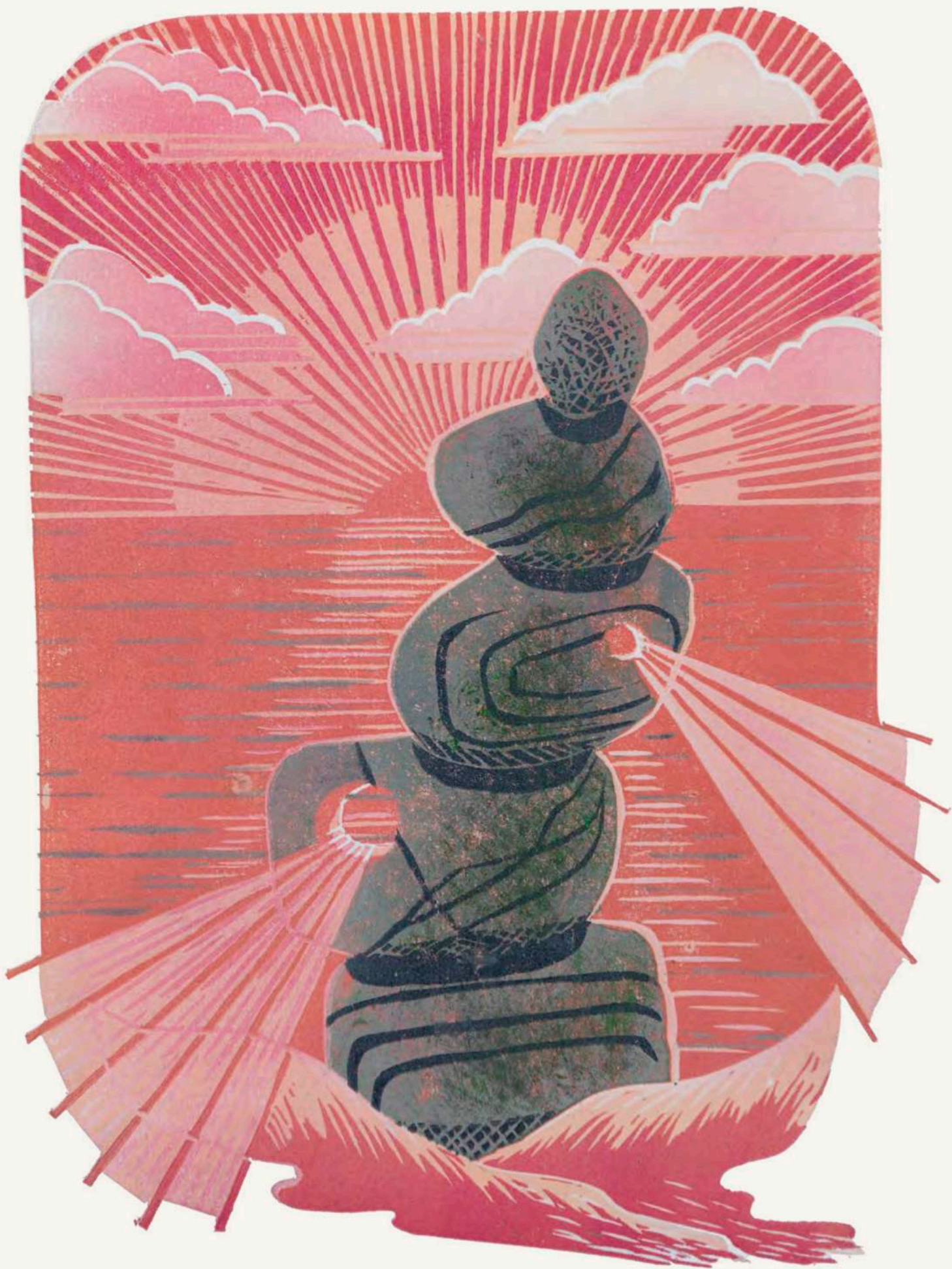
To be a living stone is to glorify God with our lives, rather than build to our own glory or power. It is to transform the way we understand power and status. It is to go exactly where God needs us to be. It is to transform and be transformed – from being ignored, neglected, and oppressed – to being a part of God's divine plan. It is to inhabit the language of living as God's people. And each person is essential in this. The five that you hold before God in prayer have an essential place to take in his building. Only the Holy Spirit can do this.

Reflection

1. We, Christians should take the Lord Christ as the foundation of our lives. But have we intensified, regenerated our lives for the Lord daily and thus get more closely related to the Lord Jesus?
2. Since we are a spiritual temple built on the living stone of Jesus, do we no longer rely on the secular vision, standards and honor of the past? Are we willing to build up and support each other with other (different) members of the church in order to witness the Gospel of the Lord?

Prayer

Loving Father, thank you for giving us Your Son, Jesus Christ, the living stone and the foundation of our lives. Please build us up on this foundation and allow us to become a spiritual palace, not to glorify ourselves, but to reveal Christ. Renew our lives day by day, and build the church with love and humility. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I beseech the Father to hear our prayers. Amen.



香港聖公會「聖言日糧」

2022年5月31日

聖公宗全球祈禱運動「願祢的國降臨」

[經文 - 和修上帝版]

彼得前書 2:9-10

韋爾比大主教

我覺得彼得前書這幾節經文，是聖經中最令人信服的經文之一。一個昔日被排斥的族類如今被接納。被流放的人如今被揀選。被辱罵的人變為聖潔。被拒絕的人如今被愛。

彼得前書的讀者，知道因為自己的信仰被排斥、壓迫和騷擾是甚麼一回事。他們是沒有身分的族類，但在上帝眼中卻不一樣。他們寂寂無聞，不被理會，被認為是無關痛癢的人，但在創造主眼裏卻不一樣。

在這一節經文中，我們被呼召——甚至乎是被挑戰——不以世俗眼光看自己，但以上帝的視角看自己。我們被呼召不以世俗認為重要的價值（例如身分、財富、權力）去判斷自己，卻以上帝在基督內的無限愛心去衡量。由於上帝在基督內為我們所作的工，我們被視為滿有價值、被愛、被揀選。在上帝眼中，你是滿有價值、被愛、被揀選的。

這是我們要學習的：成為上帝子民，即他的「特殊產業」（不是依附世俗的價值）¹。我們的身分特徵是豐盛、盼望、信實和愛。基督所作的，是向一個以往被指沒有價值的族類，給予永恆的價值。當我們覺得自己無用、不重要、失敗、使人尷尬，上帝的話卻要提醒我們「上帝的族類」才是我們的身分。

這種愛可令我們得到轉化，但轉化有其目的。因為獲得恩賜後，亦要接受呼召，即「叫你們宣揚那召你們出黑暗入奇妙光明者的美德」。我們被轉化，是要成為上帝改變他人的途徑。我們的視野更廣闊，就能使他人可以真正的看見。

這可指出人會因各種原因而視他人價值比自己更低的傾向。上帝在基督內亦已揀選他們，他們與我們一樣，都是上帝的族類。我們不應製造藩籬，把他人視作異類。那些我們可能意圖排斥、不理會，或拒絕的人，正正是上帝召聚和歡迎的人。

試想到你的五位朋友。祈求聖靈在他們身上作工，使他們得知自己也會被接納！

這種轉化十分美妙。曾是被羞辱的標記，如今成為上帝慈愛的標記。今天在我們祈禱時，讓我們立志以上帝慈愛的視角，細看身邊的人。

反思

1. 我們既是被上帝揀選為「屬祂的子民」，請反思我們在生活、工作及事奉上會以甚麼的眼光和價值觀去看待人？當我們以上帝的角度，即以愛作為標準，那不屬世的眼光和價值會是如何？
2. 經文教導我們要打開自己的圍欄，接納被忽視、被排擠、不同己見的，因為我們都是上帝所愛的羊。身處今日的社會，那裏充滿著不同的立場和看法，你能以身作則去包容和接納別人嗎？

禱文

親愛的天父，我們感謝祢，因為我們能跟隨祢，成為祢的子民。求聖靈降臨在我們中間，引領我們成長，待人處事都以祢的愛為榜樣，不以屬世的地位、財富、權力衡量自己和別人；開啟我們屬靈的眼睛，做祢所喜悅的事；打開我們的心，拆毀一切圍欄和高牆，學效主耶穌以謙卑的心包容不同的人和事，每天通過上帝慈愛的眼睛，看待我們所遇到的每一個人。懇求聖靈引領，奉主耶穌基督的名。阿們。

¹ 譯註：原文是 his 'special possession'；第九節「上帝的子民」，有一些英文譯本會譯作 God's special possession。

HKSKH “The Daily Word”

2022.05.31

Anglican Communion “Thy Kingdom Come”

Readings from NIV
1 Peter 2:9-10

Archbishop Justin Welby

I find these verses in 1 Peter to be some of the most compelling passages in scripture. A people once excluded are now embraced. Those who were exiled, now chosen. The reviled have been made holy, the rejected are loved.

Those to whom Peter writes know what it is like to be marginalised, oppressed, and harassed because of their faith. They are people without status – except in the eyes of God. They are unknown and unseen and unimportant. Except to the Creator of the universe.

In this verse, we are called – perhaps challenged – to see ourselves not as the world sees us, but as God sees us. We are called to judge ourselves not according to the values which seem to matter most to the world – status, wealth, power – but according to God’s boundless love in Christ. Because of God’s work for us in Christ we are called worthy, loved, chosen. You are called worthy, loved, and chosen in the eyes of God.

This is how we learn to be God’s people, his ‘special possession’, rather than people beholden to this world. Ours is a status characterised by abundance, hope, faithfulness, and love. What Christ has done is give a people, who had been told they held no value, a sense of eternal value. When we think we are useless, unimportant, a failure, or an embarrassment, the word of God reminds us who we really are: God’s own people.

This is a love that transforms us. But for a purpose. For with the gift comes a calling – so ‘that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light’. We are transformed to be agents of God’s transformation; our eyes are opened so we can enable others to truly see.

This addresses the human tendency to judge others as ‘less’, which we do for all sorts of reasons. In Christ God has chosen them too, they are included, with us, as part of his people. We cannot put boundaries or walls down between us. Those who we might be tempted to exclude, ignore, and reject are exactly those whom God gathers up and welcomes.

Consider your five friends, they are included in on this. Oh! that the Spirit would so move in them that they might come to know it for themselves.

The transformation is incredible. Our marks of shame become signs of God’s love. As we pray today, let us pledge to see everyone we meet through the loving eyes of God.

Reflection

1. Since we are “God’s own people”, chosen by God, what kind of mindset and values should we have when we treat others (in our life, work and ministry)? When we adopt God’s perspective i.e. love as the standard, what would the kind of mindset and values which do not belong to the world be like?
2. This Scripture reminds us we should bring down boundaries with others, accept those who are ignored or excluded, since we are all sheep loved by God. Our society today is filled with different various positions and views. How can you set an example in embracing and accepting others?

Prayer

Loving God, we give thanks that we can follow You and be Your people. We ask for the Holy Spirit’s presence in us, and the Holy Spirit’s guidance for our growth in faith, so that we can follow Your example of love, and do not judge ourselves and others according to their status, wealth and power. Open our mind with the Spirit, so that we can do what the Lord pleases. Open our hearts. Break down boundaries and walls with others. Follow Jesus’s example of embracing different people and things with a humble heart. Make us see everyone we meet every day through the loving eyes of God. We pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



香港聖公會「聖言日糧」

2022年6月1日

聖公宗全球祈禱運動「願祢的國降臨」

[經文 - 和修上帝版]

彼得前書 3:4

韋爾比大主教

我們從小就受到叮囑：不要以貌取人——雖然我們很多時都難以做到。不過，聖經提到以貌取人的危險，卻一點都不含糊。約翰福音 7 章 24 節就說：「不要憑外表斷定是非，總要按公平斷定是非。」這樣講一點也不出奇。金當時大多數人看見被釘在十字架上的基督，都認定他是罪犯，該當受盡羞辱而死；差不多所有人都認定，他是失敗了的彌賽亞。他們無法看見一個不可思議的真理，就是上帝是為了我們，克勝邪惡。因此，事實不一定如外表那樣的。

但對世人來說，外表卻很重要。我們很重視怎樣展示自己，覺得必須假裝、必須配合，必須有某些外表，好使人家接受我們。我們的審美觀所根據的，是缺乏基礎的，既是短暫的、也是受局限的；只會導致互相的比較和嫉妬，造成不安全感，覺得自己不足。

上帝卻不是這樣看我們，祂也不要我們這樣衡量自己。

對比外表的美，聖彼得所稱為「蘊藏在人內心」的品質，就是豐富而且不受限制的。這些品質令我們感到喜悅，而不是嫉妒；受到啟發，而不是不安。堆砌外在美，是嘗試令自己感覺良好；但是培養內在美，不單止自己愉快，別人也感覺舒服。

使徒彼得寫這節經文的對象，是一些毫無社會地位的婦女。他們過去一定被他人當作物件看待，被視為只從屬於他人，而不是在上帝眼中有獨立的人格，為上帝所愛的一個人。但彼得認定，這些婦女有豐富的內在生命，這個生命——是不為其他人，單為耶穌而活——顛覆了當時一般人所預料的。彼得肯定，男人與主人都不是女人的最高權威；只有那位按自己的形象創造我們的上帝才是。

基督耶穌——他是上帝聖道所成的肉身——呼召我們按每個人的本性來看待眾人。這個呼召是要我們真心誠意地聆聽他人、認識他人，與上帝的聖靈同工。聖靈會與我們相遇，打開我們內心的最深處。很多時候我們向人傳講耶穌之時，並沒有先去聽聽他們的故事。很多時我們未知道真相，就先下判斷。今日我們反思美麗的真義，如果我們信任上帝的豐厚大愛，而不是害怕自己愛得不夠，我們一定會遇見真正的美。只有上帝能成就這事。

就讓我們為五位朋友祈禱，求上帝藉祂的聖靈與他們在靈裏相連。

反思

1. 我內在的真我，擁有怎樣的妝飾？一個不論回報而行善的愛心，還是一個想要成為焦點並且獲得別人掌聲的期望？我是一個兩面人嗎？我還能夠謙卑柔和嗎？
2. 我們總希望自己受到別人的接納、明白和體諒。然而當我們過份重視自己的想法和觀念，會否變得過於論斷並且傷害了別人呢？

禱文

慈愛的天父，我倚靠祢，求基督帶領我，求聖靈教導我，叫我堅定不移的信靠上主。讓我抓緊真正的生命，用真我生活，在和平與喜樂中事奉祢。求主讓我活出福音的精神，「愛主愛人」。阿們！

HKSKH “The Daily Word”

2022.06.01

Anglican Communion “Thy Kingdom Come”

Readings from NIV

1 Peter 3:4

Archbishop Justin Welby

Whilst we are implored from our early years not to judge a book by its cover, it is something we have a hard time adhering to. But scripture is unequivocal on the dangers of judging by what we see; ‘Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment’ (John 7:24). It’s hardly surprising – most of the people who saw Christ upon the cross merely recognised a criminal, a man suffering a shameful and humiliating death. All most saw was a failed messiah – unable to see the incredible truth - God triumphing over evil for our sakes. Things are not always what they seem.

But appearance is important in our world. We feel there is so much in how we present ourselves. So many of us feel we have to pretend, to fit in, to look a certain way in order to be accepted. Our perceptions of beauty are based on scarcity; they are temporal and limited; they are a cause for comparison and jealousy, insecurity and lack.

This is not how God values us, and it’s not how He wants us to value ourselves.

By contrast, the qualities of what St Peter calls, ‘the inner spirit’ are abundant and unlimited. They leave us feeling joyful, rather than jealous, inspired rather than insecure. Cultivating external beauty is an attempt to feel good about ourselves. Building internal beauty makes others feel good too.

The women Peter is addressing in this verse have little social status. They must have often been objectified, seen as something to be ‘owned’ rather than as individual humans seen and loved by God. Yet Peter recognises that they have a rich inner life – one that is subversive to the expectations of the time – a life lived not for others but for Jesus. Peter affirms that neither men nor masters are the supreme authority, but the God who makes us in his own image.

Christ Jesus – the one in whom God is made – calls us to see people for who they really are. It’s a call to really and truly hear and know people properly, to work with God’s Spirit who encounters us and opens us up in our deepest places. All too often we tell people about Jesus without trying to hear their story first. All too often we judge before we know the truth. Today we reflect on the true beauty we will surely encounter if we put our trust in God’s abundant love, rather than our own fear of not being enough. Only God can enable this.

Let us then pray for our five friends, that God would connect with them by his Spirit to their spirit.

Reflection

1. What adornment does my inner true self have? A kind heart of giving without asking return, or the desire for attention and applause? Am I duplicitous? Or can I be humble and gentle?
2. We always wish people to accept, understand and accommodate us. However, when we over-stress our own thought and idea, are we judging too much and hurting people?

Prayer

Merciful Father, I trust in You, may Christ lead me, may the Spirit teach me, so that my faith may remain steadfast. Let me seize the true live and live the true self, to serve You with peace and joy. Let me live out the spirit of the Gospel, “love God, love others.” Amen!



香港聖公會「聖言日糧」

2022年6月2日

聖公宗全球祈禱運動「願祢的國降臨」

[經文 - 和修上帝版]

彼得前書 3:18

韋爾比大主教

我們生活中不能避免苦難，彼得寫信給為了信仰遭受苦難和迫害的基督徒群體，他認為這些信徒在被擄時候所展示的勇氣和軟弱不僅是他們督信基督的記號，亦是他們遵循耶穌在十字架上受苦的榜樣。

成為基督徒不代表苦難會消失，耶穌的受死與復活並沒有使我們免於經歷痛苦、被拒絕或迷失。苦難仍然會臨到我們身上，我們都會受傷、感到悲傷、被羞辱，最終死去。耶穌為我們所作的並不能保證我們過上沒有苦難的生活。

但耶穌的死亡卻給我們打開讓我們認識及領受上帝賜福的門，甚至有時候是在苦難中更強烈和深刻地感受到上帝的賜福。耶穌基督在十字架上的受苦，顯出上帝深深地愛我們，以至祂願意承受我們本來不得不獨自經歷的痛苦。耶穌的復活所應許的是與父上帝同在的永生，甚至我們在世的時候，祂都與我們同在。

最令人意想不到的的是當我們還與上帝為敵時，祂卻為我們承受了這難以想像的痛苦。儘管我們拒絕上帝，祂仍然願意為我們犧牲。當我們今天繼續為那五位尚未來到耶穌跟前的人祈禱時，讓我們慶祝基督已經為他們受死，將他們視為所愛，並渴望在苦難中與他們同在。我們祈求他們被聖靈重生。

在這段經文中，彼得從一個全新及關乎宇宙萬物的角度去看受苦，上帝為我們所作的震撼整個宇宙，卻是聚焦在一個被鞭打及破碎的人身上。後來，彼得寫道：「你們是與基督一同受苦，使你們在他榮耀顯現的時候也可以歡喜快樂。」在上帝面前，我們的苦難並非微不足道，但苦難也不是終結。苦難的另一面是勝利，因為我們會與耶穌有同樣的經歷，就是在肉體裡死亡，但在靈裡復活。

願你所認識正在經歷苦難的人能感受到從上帝膀臂而來的安慰和引領。在上帝裡面，苦難從來不會獲得最終的勝利。

反思

1. 我成為基督徒後，最深刻的不如意事情、甚至可稱得為「苦難」的一件事是甚麼？面對這件事時，我的情緒及態度與信主前有沒有不同？有甚麼不同？
2. 在上述事件中，誰為我帶來一些負面情緒？我願意為他們禱告嗎？我願意求天父讓我更懂得去愛他們嗎？

禱文

慈悲仁愛的天父，感謝祢讓我人生中有苦難，使我在平靜安穩的日子中更懂得心存感恩；滿有大能的主耶穌，感謝祢在我還未認識祢的時候，已為我的過犯而犧牲，祢的復活更讓我深信生命可以因著依靠祢而改變；安慰人心的聖靈，願祢時刻提醒我，不論我在任何的苦難中，祢必與我同在。奉主名求，阿們。

HKSKH “The Daily Word”

2022.06.02

Anglican Communion “Thy Kingdom Come”

Readings from NIV

1 Peter 3:18

Archbishop Justin Welby

Suffering is an inevitable part of our lives. Peter is writing to suffering communities, people who are experiencing significant hardship because of their faith in Christ. Their courage and vulnerability during this exile, Peter seems to suggest, is not just a sign of their faith in Christ, but follows the model of Jesus’ example of the Cross.

Being a Christian has never offered an escape from suffering. Jesus’ death and resurrection doesn’t exempt us from painful experiences, from feeling rejected or lost. It doesn’t stop bad things happening to us. We will be injured, we will grieve, we will be humiliated. Ultimately we will die. What Jesus has done for us does not guarantee us a pain-free life.

But what His death does do is open up the door to us knowing and experiencing God’s blessing, even – sometimes most intensely and profoundly – amid suffering. What Christ’s suffering on the Cross does offer is the intimacy of a God who loves us so deeply that He was willing to bear the pain we previously had to experience alone. What His resurrection does promise is eternal life with the Father, even throughout the reality of our temporal lives.

The most extraordinary thing is that God suffers this unimaginable pain for us, whilst we were still His enemies. He is willing to die for us, even though we are the ones who rejected Him. As we continue to pray today for those five who are yet to come to Jesus, let’s celebrate the fact that Christ has already died for them, already counts them as loved, and desires to be with them in their pain as well. We pray that they might be made alive by his Holy Spirit.

In this passage, Peter places suffering on a whole new, cosmic axis. What God has done for us reverberates around the whole universe, and yet is centred on one beaten, broken man. Later, Peter writes: ‘You are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed’. Our sufferings are not trivial to the God who intimately knows suffering. But they are not final either. On the other side of suffering is victory. For what took place in Jesus takes place in us – death in the body but being made alive in the Spirit.

May those you know who are experiencing suffering today feel the arms of God comforting and guiding them. With God, suffering never has the last word.

Reflection

1. What was my greatest disappointment that could be considered “suffering” after becoming a Christian? When I faced that suffering, were there any differences in my emotions and attitudes as compared to those before I became a follower of God?
2. Who triggered negative emotions to me during the incident mentioned above? Will I pray for them? Am I willing to ask God to help me love them more?

Prayer

Merciful Father, thank You for teaching me to be grateful in peaceful days as suffering is inevitable; Almighty Jesus, thank You for Your sacrifice even before I knew You, Your resurrection showed me that life can be changed within You; Holy Spirit who comforts me, remind me always that You are with me whenever I suffer. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.



香港聖公會「聖言日糧」

2022年6月3日

聖公宗全球祈禱運動「願祢的國降臨」

[經文 - 和修上帝版]

彼得前書 4:6

韋爾比大主教

有時，我們最想避免的事情往往都會發生，隔閡就是一個例子，我們都害怕面對分離和隔絕。面對與我們不同的「他者」，我們會保持距離；已經安息的亡者，我們會感到分離。有時，我們會感到與主隔絕，有時又會覺得有些人高不可攀，甚至有時我們會覺得自己被黑暗、孤獨和恐懼所吞噬，而感到被隔絕。

今天這段經文為我們帶來一個多麼深刻的信息：耶穌降至陰間，進入我們最害怕的地方，帶領我們出死入生。那些被黑暗吞噬的人得聞福音，並被帶進上帝的榮光中。逝者復生，過新生活，見證上帝的奇蹟。

許多人可能只是生存，並沒有真正活着：他們往往受環境、境況和焦慮所困。福音帶給人新生命——上帝把死胡同變成轉捩點，把拒絕變成接受，死亡變成新生命。在福音下，人人皆可得救。當人真誠悔改，上帝總會赦免。那些我們看來無可救藥的人、我們認為沒有希望的人，上帝從不放棄他們。一旦尋見，上帝會說：“你們和我一同歡喜吧，我失去的羊已經找到了！”（路加福音 15: 6）。

上帝的慷慨湧流，連死亡也要靠邊站。雖然我們不全然了解救恩，但我們遇到了那使死者復活的基督。

人們嗤之以鼻之處，上帝張開雙臂擁抱。當我們受誘惑去論斷別人，上帝呼召我們去愛。當肉體日漸衰殘，精神卻活着。這是一個按照上帝的標準而不是按照自己的標準而生活的呼召。今天為你的五個朋友禱告，相信上帝的靈會跨越每一個界限，去傳達祂的愛。

當你今天為你關心的五個人祈禱時，請記住：沒有人能超越上帝的同在和應許。

反思

1. 一方面，基督徒是知罪的罪人，對肉體和靈性的對立往往特別敏銳，可是另一方面，世人往往因為每天營營役役、為生活奔波而忙過不停，過着行屍走肉的生活。然而，主耶穌多次向我們的呼喚，靈命的成長比肉體的滿足更為重要。您近期的生活，是體貼靈性？還是體貼肉體多？
2. 上主的救恩，無遠弗屆，正如經文所載「就是死人也曾有福音傳給他們」。為此，我們能堅信從死裏復活的主，總能讓絕處逢生；祂也希望世人能夠化干戈成玉帛。試回想近日有甚麼人、事、物讓您失望或沮喪，自己又有否將之交托予主？

禱文

全能的上帝，我們人生在世，常常為生活而奔波，過着營營役役的生活。我們面對慾望的試探，而忽視靈命的成長。求祢幫助我們能時常依靠祢，追求靈命的更新。復求上帝，讓我們能把一切傷心、失意之事交托予祢，恩慈的主，求祢化詛咒為祝福，奉主耶穌基督的聖名而求。阿們。

HKSKH “The Daily Word”

2022.06.03

Anglican Communion “Thy Kingdom Come”

Readings from NIV

1 Peter 4:6

Archbishop Justin Welby

Sometimes we make happen the very things we most want to avoid. One thing we often fear, and yet create for ourselves, is separation. We feel distant from those who are different than us, those we consider ‘other’. We feel separated from those who have gone before. Sometimes we feel separated from God. Some people we think are beyond reach. Sometimes we feel beyond reach ourselves, consumed by darkness, loneliness, and fear.

What a profound message then for us in this passage. Jesus descends into the darkness, into the places we fear most, to bring us out of death and into life. Those who are consumed by darkness hear the Good News and are brought into the glorious light of God. Those who are dead are made to live new lives, which witness to the miracles of God.

Many people may be physically alive, but they are not truly living. There are those who live submerged by circumstances, situations, and anxieties. The gospel gives people new life – God turns dead ends into turning points, rejection into acceptance, death into new life. It says that no one is beyond redemption. There is no sin God doesn’t forgive when repentance is true. Those whom we give up on, whom we consider past hope, God never stops searching for. When they are found, God celebrates: ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep’ (Luke 15:6).

The generosity of God overflows with such power that even death is swept away. Whilst we do not fully understand the mechanisms of salvation, we are encountered by the one who gives life to the dead.

Where people turn away, God welcomes. Where we are tempted to judge, God calls us to love. When flesh inevitably dies, spirit lives. It is a call to live according to God’s standards, rather than wither according to our own. Pray today for your five friends; the Spirit of the one who crosses every boundary to bring the message of his love might reach them.

As you pray for your five people today, remember this: no one is beyond the presence and promise of God.

Reflection

1. Christians are convicted sinners, sensitive to the conflict between the flesh and the spiritual. However, we live in such a busy world that many are like walking dead. Jesus has repeatedly called to us that spiritual growth is more important than physical satisfaction. Reflect on your recent status: is it more inclined to the spiritual or the flesh?
2. The salvation of the Lord is infinite, as the scripture said, “the gospel was proclaimed even to the dead”. We firmly believe that the Risen Lord can turn the dead into life, and that the world remain peaceful. Is there anything/anyone that has disappointed or frustrated you recently? Have you entrusted it to the Lord?

Prayer

Almighty God, we live in a world where we struggle to make ends meet. We are tempted by the desires of the flesh, and ignore our spiritual growth in You. Help us to always rely on You for spiritual renewal, and that we can entrust all our sorrows and disappointments to You. Gracious Lord, we ask You to turn our despair into blessings. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



香港聖公會「聖言日糧」

2022年6月4日

聖公宗全球祈禱運動「願祢的國降臨」

[經文 - 和修上帝版]

彼得前書 4:14

韋爾比大主教

「在迫害中的盼望」是彼得前書全書的一個清晰主題。這既是一種鼓勵，也是一種應許——苦難將成了榮耀。它是貫穿了過去、現在和未來：耶穌曾經在十字架上得勝，父上帝使他復活戰勝了死亡，聖靈在此時此刻與我們同在，基督將要在榮耀中再來。故此我們是充滿盼望。

在此，彼得做了被當時認為不光彩的事，不論是他寫信給的群體，及當今世代上許多人而言，這就是作基督徒。

耶穌在被嘲笑、侮辱和斥責中死去。祂在羞辱中犧牲。然而，這就是祂要到世上來要做的事。因為這死亡顯明了上帝的榮耀。從基督的屈辱中我們看到上帝的榮耀，因為上帝承擔了我們的罪，分擔了我們的痛苦。上帝的榮耀就是他如何愛我們。這種可恥的死亡將羞辱轉化為勝利，將不聖潔轉化為聖潔。

基督徒的生命並不全是苦難。即使在最黑暗的時期，它也能體驗到盼望的確帶來快樂。這個應許就是總有一天，世上萬物皆得到更新。

當人們看到盼望活現時，令人難以置信的事情就會發生。活潑的上帝給人活生生的盼望。

當我們作基督徒時，我們會經歷上帝的祝福，就像我們知道人類的苦難一樣。聖保羅告訴我們要分擔主的苦難，才可以進入主的榮耀。我們在意想不到的地方，在最黑暗的角落，在那些被拒絕和摧殘的人身上發現的上帝偉大的榮耀。讓我們明白上帝知道為我們犧牲是值得的，任何痛苦或悲傷的經歷都無法勝過上帝帶來生命的能力。

無論我們正在經歷什麼，「聖靈請你來」的禱文會使事情改變。尤其是祈求聖靈在你的五個朋友身上工作，使他們能夠透過基督的苦難而進入榮耀。這就是聖靈的工作。

我們生命中的美麗、光輝和喜樂，以及苦難和痛苦，都是將要再來的上帝的榮耀。

願榮耀的聖靈在你身上，在你代禱的人身上，從今天直到永遠。

反思

1. 你曾否以作為基督徒而感到羞恥？你有否試過為主的名而受苦？若有，你是如何面對和克服這種情況？
2. 你心裏對上主有充足的盼望嗎？這盼望能使你在任何境況下都滿有喜樂地生活嗎？

禱文

親愛的天父，感謝祢差派聖靈來到我們中間，時刻引領我們，就算遭遇困苦或羞辱，我們都可以常存盼望，用喜樂的心去面對一切，迎向將來的榮耀。奉主耶穌基督的名而求。阿們。

HKSKH “The Daily Word”

2022.06.04

Anglican Communion “Thy Kingdom Come”

Readings from NIV

1 Peter 4:14

Archbishop Justin Welby

Hope in the midst of persecution is a clear theme throughout the Book of 1 Peter. It's both an encouragement and a promise – suffering will give way to glory. It works through the past, present and future: Jesus has prevailed on the cross and in raising him to life God the Father has overcome death. The Holy Spirit is with us in the here and now. Christ will return in glory. There is every reason for hope.

Here, Peter takes something considered by the contemporary world to be shameful – for the community he writes to, and for many people around the world today, it is being a Christian.

Jesus died whilst being mocked, insulted, and berated. He died in shame. Yet this what He was born to do, the hour for which He came. For this death reveals the glory of God. God's glory seen in the humiliation of Christ, as God bears our sin and shares our pain. The glory of God is how he loves us. This shameful death transforms shame into victory, unholiness into holiness.

Life as a Christian isn't all suffering. It's experiencing the joy which the certainty of the hope brings, even in the darkest times. The promise of a world where everything will one day be made new.

When people see that hope being lived, incredible things can happen. The living God gives people a living hope.

As we live as Christians we experience God's blessings, even as we know humankind's suffering. St Paul talks about us sharing His sufferings, that we may enter into His glory. It is the depth of glory found in the unexpected places, in the darkest corners, in those who are rejected and abused. It is knowing that God considers us worth dying for, and that no experience of suffering or sorrow is able to overcome the capacity of God to bring life.

This is the work of the Holy Spirit. Whatever we are going through, the prayer, 'Come Holy Spirit' changes things. Pray most especially the Holy Spirit would so work in your five friends that they are able to enter into glory through the sufferings of Christ.

In the beauty, the magnificence, and the joy of our lives, as well as the suffering and the pain, is the glory of God who will come again.

May the Spirit of glory be upon you, and upon those you pray for, today and all your days.

Reflection

1. As a Christian, have you ever felt ashamed? Have you ever suffered for the name of the Lord? If so, how did you face and overcome this situation?
2. Do you have sufficient hope in the Lord? Does this hope enable you to live with joy in any circumstances?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to us and guide us at all times, even in the midst of our hardship or humiliation, we can always have hope and face all things with a joyful heart, and look forward to the glory of the future. I ask, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



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