

# Christmas Eve 平安夜 – Good News 好消息

Luke 路加福音 1:26-38

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Have you heard the news?

你聽到了這件新聞嗎？

Did you hear what has just happened? I can't believe it...Oh you haven't heard yet. Did you see what was on the front of the newspaper?

你聽到剛剛發生了什麼事嗎？我簡直不敢相信.....哦，你還沒聽說過。你看到了報紙的頭條新聞內容了嗎？

Our ears prick up at these types of things. Maybe you were even expecting just now to hear some interesting news. One of things that social media does really well is constantly bombard us with new things. If you keep pulling down, or hitting refresh on Facebook or twitter or Instagram, it will show you new pictures, or stories. They've figured out how much we and our brains love to look at new things.

我們對這些類型的事情都豎起耳朵。也許你剛才甚至是期待聽到一些有趣的信息。社交媒體做到的一件事就是不斷用新事物轟炸我們。如果你繼續往下看，或者在 Facebook、Twitter 或 Instagram 上刷新，它會向你顯示新的圖片或故事。他們已經弄清楚我們和我們的大腦有多喜歡看新事物。

How would you respond if I shared the front page of the newspaper from 2007. Indifference? Or if I showed you a funny picture from Instagram that you'd already seen. Ha. Yeah good. Seen it.

如果我分享了 2007 年報紙的頭版，你會如何回應。冷漠？或者，如果我向您展示了一張您已經看過的來自 Instagram 的有趣圖片。哈。好耶。看過。

But I wonder if there are some pieces of news, some old pieces of information that are still life changing. Some things that still stop us in our tracks.

但我想知道是否有一些新聞，一些舊信息仍然在改變生命。是否有些事情仍然使我們卻步去思考。

When an old friend tells you how much they still enjoy hanging out.

當一個老朋友告訴你他們仍然有喜歡與你共聚時。

When a family member tells you again for the 400<sup>th</sup> time that they love you.

當家人第 400 次再次告訴您他們愛您時。

There is some news that we might have heard before, can still impact our hearts.

有一些我們以前可能聽說過的信息，仍然會影響我們的心。

It's Christmas Eve. We've gathered late at night to celebrate Christmas. To hear the Old, old news of Jesus coming as a baby. I wonder what kind of news it is for you.

今天是平安夜。我們深夜聚在一起迎接慶祝聖誕。再去聽耶穌作為嬰兒降臨的舊聞。我想知道這對你來說是什麼樣的新聞。

Is it just news that we have heard before, and isn't exciting and we're looking for more from Christmas. Or is there still something about this old news that is still relevant for us. That can still impact our hearts this year.

是否只是我們之前聽說過的新聞，並不令人興奮，而我們正在尋找更多來自聖誕節的信息。或者這個舊新聞還有什麼對我們來說仍然相關的東西。今年這仍然會影響我們的心。

Tonight, we're looking at how Mary the mother of Jesus responds to the news of the coming of Jesus.

今晚，我們來看看耶穌的母親馬利亞如何回應耶穌降臨的信息。

Challenge will be to be amazed and transformed at this old news, not like it's the first time, but because it is still oh so meaningful for us.

挑戰將是怎樣仍對這個舊信息感到驚訝和帶來轉變，雖不是第一次，但因為它對我們來說仍然如此有意義。

### 1. Mary's Response to News 馬利亞對信息的回應

We come to Mary and her response to hearing from God.

我們來看馬利亞和她聽到從上帝而來的信息的回應。

She is a young lady, pledged to be married to Joseph. And an angel appears to her with a message from God. That's the best kind of news, watching on TV the news at the end of the day about what has happened is one thing, but Mary is hearing the freshest news, it is news about what is going to happen.

她是一位年輕的女子，已經許配給約瑟。一位天使帶著來自上帝的信息出現在她面前。那是最好的信息，在一天結束時在電視上回顧有關當天發生的事情的新聞是一回事，但馬利亞聽到的是最新鮮的新聞，是關於將要發生的事情的信息。

The Angel says, "***Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.***"

天使說，「**蒙大恩的女子，你好，主和你同在！**」

Not sure how you would respond if an angel appeared, let alone described you as highly favoured. God has shown grace, unmerited favour to her. This is amazing, that God would shown his unmerited favour and grace to anyone, let alone a 15-year-old girl who could not have done anything to deserve it.

不知道如果天使向你出現你會如何回應，更不用說稱你為蒙大恩的。上帝已經向她顯示了恩典和不應得的恩惠。令人驚奇的是，上帝會向任何人展示他不應得的恩惠和恩典，更不用說一個沒有做什麼來配得到的15歲的女孩。

Mary responds to this announcement, Verse 29

馬利亞回應此公告，第29節

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.  
馬利亞因這話就很驚慌，又反覆思考這樣問候是甚麼意思。

She doesn't initially respond with great joy. She doesn't say "Wow, that is so interesting, I've got to update my social media with this news – I'm highly favoured by God".  
她最初並沒有非常高興地回應。她沒有說，「哇，這太有趣了，我必須用這個信息更新我的社交媒體——我很受上帝的青睞蒙大恩」。

She is troubled. She has an emotional reaction to this news. She is trying to understand what this angelic being who has just appeared to her is saying. Why? What have I done that makes me special? Why would the Lord be with me? But it's not about her being special – it's about God who chooses to favour people. The God who chooses to have grace and use even unlikely people.  
她很煩惱。她對這個信息有一種情緒化的反應。她試圖理解這個剛剛出現在她面前的天使在說什麼。為什麼？我做了什麼讓我與眾不同？為什麼主會與我同在？但這不是關於她的特殊性——而是關於選擇偏愛人的上帝。選擇賜恩典並使用甚至不太可能的人的上帝。

The angel continues,  
天使繼續說，

“Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.

「馬利亞，不要怕，你在上帝面前已經蒙恩了。31 你要懷孕生子，要給他起名叫耶穌。32 他將要為大，稱為至高者的兒子；主上帝要把他祖先大衛的王位給他。33 他要作雅各家的王，直到永遠；他的國沒有窮盡。」

If she was confused and troubled before about being favoured by God – imagine her now. You're saying that I'm favoured by God – that before I get married I'm going to have a baby. And that Baby is going to be the long expected Emmanuel who will rule forever?  
如果她之前對被上帝眷顧感到困惑和煩惱——想像一下她現在是怎麼辦。你是說我是蒙受到上帝的恩——在我結婚之前我要生孩子。而那個嬰兒將成為人們期待已久，永遠統治的以馬內利？

It's no wonder that Mary responds to this amazing news with surprise and questions.  
難怪馬利亞對這個驚人的信息做出了驚訝和提問的回應。

34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

34 馬利亞對天使說：「我沒有出嫁，怎麼會有這事呢？」

This isn't a sign of doubt. But she is trying to understand God's news to her. And before she can get to all the theological implications of the descendent of David coming, the son of God himself. Before she can get to that, she asks really practical question. I'm a virgin, how is this possible? She hears the great and amazing news of the gospel and she seeks to understand it.

She doesn't dismiss it because it's crazy, or seemingly impossible. God help me to understand your word and your plan?

這不是懷疑的跡象。而是她正在努力了解上帝給她的這個信息。在她了解大衛後裔的所有神學含義之前，他是上帝的兒子。在她開始之前，她提出了非常實際的問題。我沒有出嫁，這怎麼可能？她聽到了福音的偉大而奇妙的信息，並努力去了解它。她不會因為這太瘋狂或看似不可能而不予理會。上帝幫助我理解你的話和你的計劃？

So the Angel clarifies.

所以天使澄清。

“The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail.”

「聖靈要臨到你身上；至高者的能力要庇蔭你，因此，那要出生的聖者要稱為上帝的兒子。36 況且，你的親戚伊利莎白，就是那素來稱為不生育的，在年老的時候也懷了男胎，現在懷孕六個月了。37 因為，出於上帝的話，沒有一句不帶能力的。」

Mary is given an explanation and even a piece of proof. Elizabeth her very old relative also will have a miraculous birth. How gracious is this of God to care for Mary in this way? God has placed her in a situation which no one will understand, not her fiancé, her parents, or society. And Yet God directs her to Elizabeth who is also going through a miraculous birth.

馬利亞得到了解釋，甚至是一份證據。她的年老的親戚伊利莎白，那素來稱為不生育的，也懷了男胎。上帝以這種方式照顧馬利亞，這是何等的恩典？上帝把她置於一個沒人能理解的境地，她的未婚夫、她的父母或社會都無法理解。然而，上帝將她引向同樣經歷奇蹟般懷胎的伊利莎白。

And the angel calls on her to trust God's word, no word from God will fail.

天使呼籲她相信上帝的話，上帝的話不會落空。

Mary responds verse 38,

馬利亞回應，第 38 節，

38 “I am the Lord's servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”

38 馬利亞說：「我是主的使女，願意照你的話實現在我身上。」

Isn't her response great. I will trust you, I will not be afraid, I'm your servant.

她的反應是不是很棒。我會相信你，我不會害怕，我是你的使女。

After this, Mary goes to visit Elizabeth her relative. And when she's there she responds to all that God is doing by singing a song called the Magnificat. Where she praises and gives glory to God. And she says, “My soul glorifies the lord and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.”

在此之後，馬利亞去拜訪她的親戚伊利莎白。當她在那裡時，她通過唱一首名為尊主頌的歌來回應上帝所做的一切。在那裡她讚美並榮耀上帝。她說：「我心尊主為大；我靈以上帝我的救主為樂」

She is rejoicing! Praising God.

她很高興！讚美上帝。

Her journey responding to the news from the angel is helpful for us.

她回應天使信息的過程對我們很有幫助。

She started troubled, unsure of the news. She questions the angel. Then she places her trust in God's word, and finally rejoices and praises God.

她開始時不安，不確定這個信息。她問天使。然後她就信靠神的話，最後喜樂讚美神。

I remember where I was when I first heard about 9/11. Sitting in school in year 11, my mate listening to the radio giving us updates.

我記得我第一次聽說 9/11 時我在哪裡。11 年級坐在學校裡，我的伙伴聽收音機給我們提供最新信息。

I remember hearing all the news updates last year about this new pandemic, and getting a call from Steve when I was camping, church is shutting down. Lockdowns are coming. It was at that moment I realised, oh wow – this thing is real. It's going to have massive impact on us.

我記得去年聽到關於這種新流行病的所有新聞更新，並且在我露營時接到史蒂夫的電話，教堂要關閉。封鎖即將到來。就在那一刻我意識到，哇哦——這東西是真實的。它將對我們產生巨大的影響。

There is just some news that shapes our lives.

這是其中一些影響了我們的生命的新聞。

Do you remember the first time that the news of Jesus actually interrupted your life, how much has it shaped your life ever since then?

你還記得耶穌的信息第一次真正打斷你的生活嗎，從那以後它對你的生命產生了多大的影響？

Or maybe this is one of the first times you're hearing this news, or the first time you're really noticing it.

或者，也許這是您第一次聽到這個信息，或者您第一次真正注意到它。

That God would have unmerited favour on unworthy people like Mary, and me, and you.

上帝會對像馬利亞、我和你這樣不配的人給予不應有的恩惠。

That God became a person to bring salvation. That this news was life changing for Mary. But it's also life changing for us. We can't ignore this news. Just like hearing about COVID's impact on every person on the planet, we can't pretend that this news of Jesus is not for us. It's for someone else. This message is for all people, God sent Jesus, the only way to know him and follow him, and one day we will all have to stand before him.

神成為一個人，帶來救恩。這個信息改變了馬利亞的生命。這也會改變了我們的生命。我們不能忽視這個信息。就像聽到 COVID 對地球上每個人的影響一樣，我們不能假裝耶穌的這個信息不適合我們。是給別人的。這個信息是給所有人的，上帝派了耶穌，這是認識他並跟隨他的唯一途徑，總有一天我們都必須站在他面前。

You might respond to this like Mary, being troubled at the news. I think that's a good and rational response.

你可能會像馬利亞一樣回應這個信息，因為這個信息很困擾。我認為這是一個很好且理性的回應。

Someone I know is dying at the moment from Cancer. And they do not want to talk about death. They're trying to convince themselves that they will be fine, that the doctors will fix everything. But that'd be like saying that COVID won't impact me at all. Or being on the titanic going down and ignoring the calls to get to a life boat.

我認識的一個人此刻正面對著癌症。他們不想談論死亡。他們試圖說服自己他們會沒事的，醫生會解決所有問題。但這就像說 COVID 根本不會影響我。或者在泰坦尼克號沉沒時無視前往救生艇的呼聲。

Be troubled by the news of the gospel. That we are in desperate need. We need God to favour us. And the wonderful good news of the bible is that he does. He has chosen to show us his grace.

為福音的信息而煩惱。我們迫切需要。我們需要上帝眷顧我們。聖經的好信息是他做了。他選擇向我們展示他的恩典。

Please come and ask me, person you're sitting next to. Or send us a message in our contact form online.

請過來問我，問你坐在旁邊的人。或者在我們的在線聯繫表格中給我們發送信息。

If this is news to you, or question God's message. I believe that we can place our trust in God's word just like Mary did. And this is the way to have real joy. Joy because God has intervened in a broken world. And he has said I will send my son to come as a human, to die, to be raised to new life.

如果這對你來說是新聞，或者質疑上帝的信息。我相信我們可以像馬利亞那樣信賴上帝的話。這是獲得真正快樂的方式。喜樂，因為上帝介入了一個破碎的世界。他說我會送我的兒子來作為人，死去，復活，重生。

## 2. Our response to Old news 我們對舊新聞的回應

But what if this is old news?

但如果這是舊信息呢？

What if we've heard it all before?

如果我們以前都聽說過呢？

What do we do if the good news of Jesus just seems like good olds? It doesn't have that same excitement, that same life changing joy?

如果耶穌的好信息看起來像過去塵舊的信息，我們該怎麼辦？它沒有了同樣的興奮，同樣的改變生命的喜悅？

Mary's response to the news from God is a really helpful way to keep responding to the news today.

馬利亞對來自上帝的信息的回應是一種非常有用的方式，可以讓我們繼續回應今天的信息。

Let God's news trouble you / question it / Trust / rejoice.

讓上帝的信息困擾你/質疑它/相信/歡欣鼓舞。

### **Trouble 困擾**

Mary was troubled at the message from the angel. He had said to her that she was greatly favoured.

馬利亞對天使的信息感到不安。他曾對她說過，她是蒙大恩的女子。

If you are feeling like the news of Christmas isn't that new anymore. Sit in this.

如果你覺得聖誕節的信息不再那麼新鮮了。耐心想想。

God says to you the same thing. You are greatly favoured by God.

神對你說同樣的話。你是蒙受上帝的大恩的。

Ephesians 1:7

以弗所書 1:7

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace.

7 我們藉著這愛子的血得蒙救贖，過犯得以赦免，這是照他豐富的恩典

Be troubled by this. This is disturbing news. News that might shake you out of a mundane faith. It's easy to get used to being a Christian, going to church week in and week out, and we forget the news. We become indifferent to it. I've heard it all before.

被這個困擾。這是令人不安的信息。可能讓你擺脫世俗信仰的新聞。習慣成為基督徒很容易，一週又一週地去教堂，而我們忘記了這信息。我們對它變得漠不關心。我都曾聽說過了。

Sometimes though God will creep up and remind you of this great truth.

有時，上帝也會悄悄地提醒你這個偉大的真理。

Oh, I've been really sinful, I've been full of pride.

哦，我真的有罪，我一直很驕傲。

I don't deserve anything good from God.

我不值得從上帝那裡得到任何好處。

But then this truth from Ephesians 1 and from the word to Mary – God has poured out his riches by his grace on us, his unmerited favour.

但想想從《以弗所書》1章和對馬利亞的話語中的這個真理——上帝已經通過他的恩典，把不配得的豐富的恩惠財富傾注在我們身上。

One of my favourite TV shows of the past year is Ted Lasso. In it one of the characters deliberately attempts to ruin Ted Lasso's life. When they realise what they've done they come and apologize and he just says, "I forgive you". And the other person cannot believe it and they're brought to tears.

去年我最喜歡的電視節目之一是 Ted Lasso。其中一個角色故意試圖破壞男主角的生活。當他們意識到他們所做的事情時，他們來道歉，他只是說，「我原諒你」。另一個人無法相信，他們淚流滿面。

God has shown amazing favour to us. That he would choose me, you. Sinful enemies of God. That he would shine his face on us, that he would choose to have grace.

上帝向我們顯示了驚人的恩惠。他會選擇我，你。神的罪敵。他會用他的臉光照我們，他選擇施恩典。

When we are troubled by the news of Jesus, we are reminded of our need for him and his love for us.

當我們為耶穌的信息感到困擾時，我們就會想起我們需要他和他對我們的愛。

### Question 問題

Secondly, we should keep bringing our questions to God.

其次，我們應該不斷地把我們的問題帶到上帝面前。

James 1:5-6;

雅各書 1:5-6;

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

5 你們中間若有缺少智慧的，該求那厚賜與眾人又不斥責人的上帝，上帝必賜給他。

Asking questions is not a sign of a lack of faith. We can take them to him because he is sovereign. God how will I ever stop sinning like this? God will my family, my friends ever love you? God why am I suffering right now?

提出問題並不是缺乏信心的表現。我們可以把它們帶到他面前，因為他是至高無上的。上帝，我將如何停止這樣犯罪？上帝，我的家人，我的朋友最終會永遠愛你嗎？上帝，為什麼我現在正在受苦？

Now God might speak directly to us, or through an angel. But as the angel said to Mary, that God's word doesn't fail. We have his word, and he answer us there.

現在上帝可能會直接對我們說話，或者通過天使。但正如天使對馬利亞所說的，上帝的話不會落空。我們有他的話，他就在那裡回答我們。

### Trust 相信

When we hear the good news again, troubled by our lack of worth, amazed at God's unmerited grace and favour then we can trust.

當我們再次聽到這個好信息時，為自己的缺乏價值而煩惱，對神無配得的恩典和恩寵感到驚訝時，我們就可以信任了。



Each day, responding to the news of the gospel by choosing again to trust him. Trust that what God has said about tomorrow is right and good. Trusting what he has said about humans are to live is right. Trusting that his way and his plans are better than anything I could come up with. 每天，通過再次選擇信任他來回應福音的信息。相信上帝對明天所說的話是正確和美好的。相信他所說的關於人類應怎樣生活是正確的。相信他的方式和計劃比我能想出的任何事情都要好。

## Rejoice 喜樂

How can we not then rejoice with Mary at this news?  
聽到這個信息，我們怎能不與馬利亞一同歡喜呢？

That God would save a people like us.  
上帝會拯救像我們這樣的人。

If you're feeling far or cold towards the good news of Jesus, be troubled by your own sin and the joy of his grace. Take your questions to God. Trust in him each day. And then we can rejoice knowing that he is in control and works good for all his people.

如果你對耶穌的好信息感到遙遠或冷淡，請為你自己的罪和他恩典的喜樂而煩惱。把你的問題交給上帝。相信他每一天。然後我們就可以歡喜知道他在掌控之中，並且為他的所有百姓在工作。

## Lamentation 3 says

《耶利米哀歌》第3章說

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

22 因耶和華的慈愛，我們不致滅絕，因他的憐憫永不斷絕，23 每早晨，這些都是新的；你的信實極其廣大！

When we daily remind ourselves of God's new mercies to us. Then the old news doesn't seem so old any more. It feels new, and amazing, and life giving.

當我們每天提醒自己上帝對我們的新憐憫。那麼舊信息似乎不再那麼舊了。感覺很新，很神奇，而且給與人生命。

I've been married to Alisa my wife for almost 15 years. I remember the first time that we said I love you to each other. We were young, and we were on a train between our houses. And I said it first, and I remember that heart in mouth feeling – how will she respond? Will she say thanks? Good? Will she run away or say I love you back? When she said I love you, it was wonderful news.

我和我的妻子艾麗莎結婚將近15年了。我記得我們第一次說我愛你。我們還年輕，我們在我們家之間的火車上。我先說了，我還記得那種心在口中的感覺——她會如何回應？她會說謝謝嗎？好的？她會逃跑還是說我愛你？當她說我愛你時，這是個好信息。

Since that time, let's say she has said it, or texted it to me, 'love you' every second day. That's well over 2,500 times.

從那時起，假設她每隔一天就對我說或發短信說，「愛你」。這是遠遠超過 2,500 次。

It is not news to me that she loves me. I've gotten pretty used to that idea. But why haven't I said to her, I know, stop telling me. I'm so bored by that piece of information. Can't you tell me something new and exciting!

她愛我對我來說並不是新聞。我已經很習慣這個想法了。但為什麼我沒有對她說，我知道，別再告訴我了。我對那條信息感到很無聊。你能不能告訴我一些新的和令人興奮的事情！

Everyday it's new.

每天都是新的。

After we've had an argument and I hear those words, it reminds me we're okay. Those words remind me she's still on my side, she's still got my back.

在我們吵架之後，我聽到這些話，它提醒我我們沒事。這些話讓我想起她還在我身邊，她仍然支持我。

Those words have meaning because of the relationship they're said in.

這些詞之所以有意義，是因為它們之間的關係。

How much more so with God.

上帝更是如此。

When I hear the news, again, that God loves me enough that he sent Jesus.

當我再次聽到，上帝非常愛我，以至於他派了耶穌的信息。

I need to hear that again after I've sinned, reminds me how great is his love for me.

在我犯罪之後，我需要再次聽到這句話，提醒我他對我的愛是多麼偉大。

I need to hear that when I'm lost and lonely, that he's guiding me home.

當我迷失和孤獨時，我需要聽到他會引導我回家。

I need to hear the good news when I'm questioning God – why are you letting this season be like this. Remind me of the good news that you're sovereign and in control of all things.

當我質疑上帝時，我需要聽到好消息——你為什麼讓這個季度變成這樣。讓我想起好消息，你是至高無上的，掌控著一切。

And it will make me rejoice!

它會讓我高興！