

Isaiah 《以賽亞書》 64 God's praying servants 上帝禱告的僕人

We're wrapping up our series from Isaiah today.
今天我們即將結束《以賽亞書》系列的講道。

As we've been unpacking Isaiah under broad themes, we've seen God's holiness, presence, and rule, and He is king, judge, and deliverer. He arrives, offers rest, has victory, and is the suffering servant, the light of the world.

以廣泛的主題來研究《以賽亞書》，我們看到了神的聖潔、臨在和統治，他是君王、審判者、拯救者，他的到來，提供安息，獲得勝利，是受苦的僕人，世界的光。

In Isaiah, we've seen glimpses of God's glory and grace. It's a giant arrow pointing us to Jesus. It's a bridge from the OT to the NT. As we close the curtain on Isaiah, Jesus tears the temple curtain in two & opens our relationship with God. Jesus is the piece that completes the puzzle fulfilling the prophecy in scripture.

在《以賽亞書》中我們看到了神的榮耀和恩典。它是一個將我們指向耶穌的巨大的指標，。它是從舊約到新約的橋樑。當我們把《以賽亞書》的序幕拉下時，耶穌將聖殿的幔子撕裂為兩半，開啟了我們與神的關係。耶穌是完成聖經預言的拼圖的那一塊。

Today, from Isaiah, we conclude with God's Praying Servants.

今天，我們以《以賽亞書》中的《上帝的禱告僕人》作為結束語。

What is your prayer life like 你的禱告生活是什麼樣的？

What do you pray? Do you believe God answers prayers?

你祈禱些什麼？你相信神回應禱告嗎？

Do you feel like you've been praying for some time about some issue, and it seems God's just not listening?

你是否覺得你已經為某些事情禱告了一段時間，但神似乎沒有垂聽？

Maybe you feel you're too busy to pray, and perhaps you're too busy NOT to pray & recognise that we need to give everything over to God each and every new day.

也許你覺得自己太忙而沒有時間祈禱，也許你太忙而不可能不禱告，去認識到我們需要在每個新的一天把一切都交給上帝。

Edward Bounds concluded: *Prayer is the easiest and hardest of all things; the simplest and the sublimest; the weakest and the most powerful; the results lie outside the range of human possibilities—they are limited only by the omnipotence of God.*

愛德華·邦茲總結道：禱告是一切所有的事情中最容易也是最困難的；最簡單和最崇高的；最弱和最強大的；結果是超出了人類可能性的範圍——只受上帝的全能所限制。

AND Tim Keller *Prayer is awe before an infinite force, and yet it's intimacy with a personal friend.*

還有蒂姆·凱勒，祈禱是面無限力量面前的敬畏，但也是與私人朋友的親密關係。

I'm not sure what your prayer life is like, but hopefully, today, as we go to Isaiah, we will consider what it looks like to be God's praying servants.

我不確定你的禱告生活是什麼樣的，但希望今天，我們讀《以賽亞書》時，我們會思考成為上帝禱告的僕人是甚麼樣的樣子。

Isaiah 64 gives a powerful motive to pray with passion. That motive is the recognition that we need God to revive our hearts, the church, the nation, & the world.

《以賽亞書》64 章給了熱情禱告的強而有力的動機。這個動機是認識到我們需要神來復興我們的心、教會、國家和世界。

Isaiah 64 begins with the plea:

《以賽亞書》64 章開頭懇求：

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!

願你破天而降，願山在你面前震動！

Isaiah can foresee a time in the future, events that would take place 200 years later, the defeat of Judah at the hands of the Babylonians.

以賽亞預見到未來的某個時間，200 年後將發生的事件，猶大敗在巴比倫人手中。

He sees Jerusalem destroyed, desolation, the temple burned with fire, and the people are in exile.

他看到耶路撒冷被毀，荒涼，聖殿被火燒毀，人民被擄。

He then imagines what it is like for the Exiles to return. He sees all that was treasured in v. 10 is now a wasteland, in v. 11, lying in ruins.

然後他想像到被流放的返回時會是什麼樣子。他看到第 10 節中所珍視的一切現在卻都成了曠野，在第 11 節中，盡都荒蕪。

He cries out, desperate for God to hear him. ***Oh, that God would rend the heavens and come down.*** In effect, his prayer is: *Come down, show up, do something God, put things right.*

他大聲呼喊，渴望上帝聽到他的聲音，願你破天而降。實際上，他在祈禱說：降臨，出現，做一些事情上帝，把事情糾正過來。

Isaiah prays with passion because he knows the story of God and his people. That God's people are hard-hearted & disobedient, yet God remains faithful & merciful, slow to anger & abounding in love.

以賽亞充滿激情地祈禱，因為他知道上帝和祂子民的故事。神的子民心地剛硬、悖逆，但神卻仍是信實、有憐憫、不輕易發怒、並有豐盛的慈愛。

Isaiah makes his plea based on what God has done in the past.

以賽亞根據神過去所做的事提出他的請求。

Oh, that you would come down.

願你降臨。

It's a reference to the Exodus when God did come down, delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt & met with them at Mount Sinai, where the mountain trembled.

這是指《出埃及記》，當時上帝確實降臨，將以色列人從埃及的奴役中解救出來，並在西奈山與他們會面，那時山震動了。

Isaiah is asking for another Exodus. As he sees the future exile, living in slavery under the rule of foreign kings, he wants God to put things right.

以賽亞是在求再次的出埃及。當他看到未來被擄的，活在外國國王統治下的奴隸制度中時，他希望上帝來糾正一切。

But he sees a problem; why should God bother to listen or intervene if they continue in their sinfulness?

但他看到了一個問題：如果他們繼續犯罪，上帝為什麼要費心去傾聽或干預呢？

5 You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? 6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, & all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. 7 No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us & have given us over to our sins.

5 你迎見那歡喜行義、記念你道的人；看哪，你曾發怒，因我們犯了罪；這景況已久，我們還能得救嗎？6 我們都如不潔淨的人，所行的義都像污穢的衣服。我們如葉子漸漸枯乾，罪孽像風把我們吹走。7 無人求告你的名，無人奮力抓住你。你轉臉不顧我們，你使我們因罪孽而融化。

Isaiah recognises that while he cries out to God for help, there is something in the way; the human heart is hard - past, current & future discretions are a barrier to God, and we see this terrifying image of God hiding His face from His people – I can guarantee, we don't want God to turn His back on us.

以賽亞認識到，當他向上帝呼求幫助時，卻有一些事情擋住了他的路。人心是剛硬的——對過去、現在和未來的判斷都是到上帝那裡的障礙，我們看到上帝轉臉不顧祂的子民的可怕形象——我可以保證，我們不希望上帝背棄我們。

Isaiah's plea is more than asking God to intervene in a battle between Israel and her enemies; this goes far deeper ...

以賽亞的懇求不僅僅是請求上帝介入以色列和她的敵人之間的戰爭；這更深入……

It's NOT just the war between Israel and God. It's a universal problem: humanity versus God. 這不僅僅是以色列和上帝之間的戰爭。這是一個普遍的問題：人類與上帝的對抗。

If I asked you *what problems are you facing right now?* I wonder what you'd answer: Rising interest rates, mortgage repayments, energy costs, redundancy, getting into the property market, marriage issues ...

如果我問你 *您現在面臨什麼問題?* 我想知道你會怎麼樣回答: 利率上升、抵押貸款償還、能源成本、裁員、進入房地產市場、婚姻問題……

These are all real and significant problems. Israel would have said the Assyrians, & later the Babylonian military machine.

這些都是真實而重大的問題，以色列會說亞述人，以及後來的巴比倫軍事機器。

But our number one problem is God 但我們的首要問題是神。

We've made God our enemy – & how can we protect ourselves when God is our enemy?

我們已經與神為敵——當神與我們為敵時，我們如何保護自己呢？

Isaiah's plea for God to come down is to revive our hearts. It's because we have set ourselves up as God's enemy & there's nothing we can do to save ourselves.

以賽亞祈求神降臨是為了復興我們的心。這是因為我們已將自己定為神的敵人，並且我們無能為力來拯救自己。

Even if we think we can *clean up our act*, Isaiah is a step ahead, reminding us in v. 6 that all our 'good works' are like *filthy rags*.

即使我們認為我們可以改正自己的行為，以賽亞還是領先了一步，在第 6 節中提醒我們，我們所有的「善行」都像污穢的衣服。

We can't clean up our lives because, deep down, we are unclean people.

我們無法淨化我們的生活，因為在內心深處我們都如不潔淨的人。

Even the good things we do are signs of our proud self-reliance.

即使我們所做的好事也是我們自豪的自力更生的標誌。

No matter how respectable we may seem, we are all enemies of God.

無論我們看起來多麼受人尊敬，我們都是上帝的敵人。

It's not just that we can't please God. Left to ourselves, we won't even ask for help. Human beings are hard-wired with a deep-seated bias against God.

我們不僅不能討神喜悅，沒有被干預之下，我們甚至不會尋求幫助。人類天生就對上帝有著根深蒂固的偏見。

V. 7 *no one calls on your name, or strives to lay hold of you ...*

第 7 節，*無人求告你的名，無人奮力抓住你。……*

God must do the work on our behalf

上帝必須代表我們去做工作

v.5 *how else then can we be saved?*

第 5 節，這景況已久，我們還能得救嗎？

v.8 begins, **Yet**, in other words, despite our sinfulness, God is gracious

第 8 節開始時，**但...你仍是**，換句話說，儘管我們有罪，神還是有恩典的

Yet you, LORD, are our Father.

但耶和華啊，現在你仍是我們的父！

The God who made mountains tremble & the God who is angry at sin is our Father.

使群山顫抖的，對罪發怒的神，就是我們的父。

Isaiah reminds God that we are the work of His hands;

以賽亞提醒上帝，我們是他雙手的作品；

God is the potter and we are the clay ...

我們是泥，你是陶匠；……

In v. 9, the prayer continues:

第 9 節中繼續禱告：

Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

耶和華啊，求你不要大發震怒，也不要永遠記得罪孽；看哪，求你垂顧我們，因為我們都是你的百姓。

Isaiah sees a bigger reason to save us. He is appealing to God's very nature, God's fatherly mercy.

以賽亞看到了拯救我們的更大理由，他訴諸上帝的本性，上帝慈父般的憐憫。

Isaiah's plea, *don't let us feel the full force of your anger. Please don't match our punishment with what our sin deserves.*

以賽亞的懇求，不要讓我們感受到你憤怒的全部力量。請不要讓我們的懲罰與我們的罪應得的相匹配。

Hope can only be found **IF** our Father in heaven shows mercy and finds some way to avert the punishment we deserve.

只有當我們的天父表現出憐憫，並找到某種方法來避免我們應得的懲罰時，我們才能找到希望。

We need a new **bigger** Exodus – from sin and judgment. We can't be the people we want to be, let alone the people we should be. We're slaves to our selfishness & pride. And we've put ourselves in opposition to God. So, either God is going to be God, or we're going to be god. We're on a collision course with God, and only one of us is going to survive that collision.

我們需要一次新的、**更大的出埃及**——脫離罪惡和審判。我們無法成為我們想成為的人，更不用說成為我們應該成為的人。我們是自私和驕傲的奴隸。我們已經把自己置於與上帝相對立的位置。所以，要麼上帝成為上帝，要麼我們成為神明。我們正在與上帝發生碰撞，而我們中只有一個人能夠在這場碰撞中倖存下來。

We need a **bigger** Exodus that sets us free from sin & judgment. This is what Isaiah promised and what Jesus delivered. Matthew, Mark and Luke record the baptism of Jesus, answering Isaiah's plea for God to rend the heavens and come down ...

我們需要**更大的出埃及**；使我們從罪惡和審判中釋放出來。這就是以賽亞書的應許和耶穌所成全的。馬太、馬可和路加記載了耶穌的洗禮，回應了以賽亞祈求上帝破天而降的請求……

Mark 1: 9 *At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. 10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*

《馬可福音》第1章：9 那時，耶穌從加利利的拿撒勒來，在約旦河裏受了約翰的洗。10 他從水裏一上來，就看見天裂開了，聖靈彷彿鴿子降在他身上。11 又有聲音從天上來，說：「你是我的愛子，我喜愛你。」

As Jesus rose from the waters of the Jordan, that new Exodus was just beginning. Just like Israel through the Red Sea - it was at the cross & resurrection that Jesus passed through judgment & came out the other side to set us free ...

當耶穌從約旦河水中上來時，新的出埃及才剛剛開始。就像以色列人渡過紅海一樣——耶穌在十字架和復活時，通過了審判，從另一邊出來釋放了我們……

Salvation is all the initiative, & work of our Father in heaven, finding its completion in Jesus. 救恩完全是我們天父的主動和工作；在耶穌裡找到它的完成。

The prayer of Isaiah 64 is answered in 65:1

《以賽亞書》64章的禱告在65章1節得到了答覆

"I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.'

沒有求問我的，我要讓他們找到；沒有尋找我的，我要讓他們尋見；我對沒有呼求我名的國說：「我在這裏！我在這裏！」

While we're not looking for God, God found us; & reveals himself to us.

當我們沒有尋找神時，神卻找到了我們；並向我們展示他自己。

The new Exodus has begun, and one day Jesus will return. Isaiah ends with judgement, the heavens will rend open for a final time, and God will come down to vindicate His people and renew creation.

新的出埃及已經開始，有一天耶穌會再來。《以賽亞書》以審判結束，天將最後一次裂開，神將降臨來為他的子民伸張正義並更新創造。

But this message of salvation is of no use unless people respond with faith, and how can people know if they don't hear? That means the message must be proclaimed. It's the church's mission. 但除非人們以信心回應，否則這個救恩的信息是沒有用的，如果他們沒有聽到，又怎麼能知道呢？這意味著必須宣揚這信息，這是教會的使命。

Paul quotes Isaiah 65 in Romans 10 – God is *found* by those who do not seek him, because God sends us to them; & open's their eyes – Paul concludes; *How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.*

保羅在《羅馬書》10章中引用了《以賽亞書》65章——沒有尋找我的，我要讓他們尋見；因為神差遣我們到他們那裡去；並睜開他們的眼睛——保羅總結道；「報福音、傳喜信的人，他們的腳蹤何等佳美！」

Earlier, I asked, *What is your prayer life like?*

早些時候我問，*你的禱告生活是什麼樣的？*

And I asked, *what do you pray?*

我問，*你祈禱什麼？*

The gospels remind us **prayer was integral in Jesus' life (Luke 5:16)**. *Jesus would withdraw to deserted places to pray.* Jesus always took **Time Out** to pray – to talk to God – and what did he pray? One thing we know, *not my will, but God's will be done.*

福音書提醒我們**禱告是耶穌生活中不可或缺的一部分（路加福音 5:16）**。耶穌卻退到曠野去禱告。耶穌總是抽出時間來祈禱——與上帝交談——他祈禱了什麼？我們知道一件事，不是照我所願的，而是照神所願的。

Prayer is vital in the Kingdom of God and our relationship with God ... **to seek God's will** - *The basic purpose of prayer is not to bend God's will to mine, but to mould my will into His.*

Tim Keller

禱告對於神的國度以及我們與神的關係至關重要——**尋求神的旨意**——禱告的基本目的不是讓神的旨意屈服於我的旨意，而是將我的旨意塑造成他的旨意。蒂姆·凱勒

Even Bono, the lead singer of U2, recognises this:

就連 U2 主唱波諾也承認這一點：

I pray to get to know the will of God because then the prayers have more chance of coming true – I mean that's the thing about prayer

我祈禱是為了了解上帝的旨意，因為這樣祈禱就有更多機會實現——我的意思是，這就是祈禱的意義

Prayer has been around for a long time. It's not unique to Christianity, but there is one thing that is compelling and unique to Christianity which I'll get to in a moment.

祈禱已經存在了很長的時間，它並不是基督教所獨有的。但有一件事對基督教來說是令人信服且獨特的，我稍後會談到。

Other faith traditions place flags with prayers written on them at the top of mountains, in the hope the prayers will go skyward to the heavens and be heard and answered, or they write prayers on paper and place them in wooden cylinders that you spin as you walk past, again, hoping that will spiral the prayer heavenwards and be answered.

其他信仰傳統將寫有祈禱文的旗幟放置在山頂上，希望那些禱文能夠升到天空並被聽到和回應，或者他們將祈禱文寫在紙上並將其放在木筒中，當你走過時轉動，再次旋轉，希望祈禱能螺旋上升到天堂並得到回應。

Other faith traditions are locked into prayer 5 times a day, involving recitation of slabs of their scriptures; if you miss prayer just once in your lifetime, there is no assurance of salvation. Others require you to empty your mind, concentrate on a flickering flame, or burn incense and bow to your deity ...

其他信仰傳統每天祈禱五次，其中包括背誦經文；如果你一生中只錯過一次禱告，就失去不能得救的保證。其他則要求你清空頭腦，專注於閃爍的火焰，或者燒香並向你的神靈鞠躬……

Other religions pray facing a sacred wall, writing prayers and placing them in the cracks, using beads to go through a mantra, light candles, using images and icons as a window to the heavens, and in the hope that the saints will put in a good word with God.

其他宗教面向聖牆祈禱，寫下祈禱文並將其放在裂縫中，用念珠重複地禱告，點燃蠟燭，使用圖像和聖像作為通向天堂的窗戶，並希望聖人們能夠向神說好話。

Jesus said, 5 “... when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others ... 7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

耶穌說，5 「...你們禱告的時候，不可像那假冒為善的人，愛站在會堂裏和十字路口禱告，故意讓人看見。... 7 你們禱告，不可像外邦人那樣重複一些空話，他們以為話多了必蒙垂聽。8 你們不可效法他們。因為在你們祈求以前，你們所需要的，你們的父早已知道了。」

Jesus then went on to teach His followers how to pray; *the Lord's Prayer*

耶穌接著教導他的追隨者如何祈禱。主禱文

The **unique** thing about Christian prayer is that it is relational; we have direct access to the throne of God by grace through faith in Jesus, who, as the perfect sacrifice and High Priest, intercedes with our heavenly Father on our behalf. There's no place for praying to saints or undergoing some ritual. It's simply talking directly to God in Jesus' name.

基督徒禱告的**獨特之處**在於它是關係性的；我們可以憑著恩典，藉著對耶穌的信，直接進入神的寶座，耶穌作為完美的祭物和大祭司，代表我們為我們向天父代求。向聖人祈禱或進行一些儀式都不是耶穌所教導的，只是奉耶穌的名直接與上帝交談。

Direct access reminds me a little of the old Adam West *Batman* TV series, where Police Commissioner Gordon of Gotham City could talk directly with Batman on the Bat-phone.

直接的交談讓我想起了舊的亞當·韋斯特版本的蝙蝠俠電視劇，其中哥譚市警察局長戈登可以通過蝙蝠電話直接與蝙蝠俠交談。

Prayer is one of those aspects of the Christian life where we don't often know where to start or that we neglect. Jesus invites us in the Lord's Prayer to pray and give us a framework to follow in our pursuit of prayer.

禱告是基督徒生活中我們經常不知道從哪裡開始或者常被我們忽視的方面之一。耶穌在主禱文中邀請我們去禱告並給了我們一個框架，讓我們在追求祈禱時可以遵循。

Prayer to our Heavenly Father, through His son Jesus, is personal, intimate, relational. It's to be an integral part of our lives. James 4:8 reminded us: *Draw near to God & He will draw near to you.*

通過神的兒子耶穌向神禱告是個人的、親密的、關係性的。它將成為我們生活中不可或缺的一部分。《雅各書》4:8提醒我們「要親近上帝，上帝就必親近你們。」

Like Isaiah, we need to pray in a trusting way.

像以賽亞一樣，我們需要以信靠的方式祈禱。

Remember, Isaiah was praying in a *wasteland*. Australia is a spiritual wasteland. Isaiah was not supermotivated to pray because everything was going okay. He sees desolation and ruin. But that doesn't mean he prayed less; it meant he prayed more. He prays that God shows up and that hearts be revived. ***Yet you, LORD, are our Father.***

請記住，以賽亞正在曠野中祈禱。澳大利亞是一片屬靈的曠野。以賽亞並沒有因為一切都很順利而熱衷於祈禱。他看到廢墟和荒蕪。但這並不意味著他祈禱的次數減少了；相反，他更多的祈禱。這意味著他祈禱。他祈禱上帝出現，讓人們的心甦醒。***但耶和華啊，現在你仍是我們的父！***

- Prayer is vital in the Kingdom of God.

禱告在神的國中是至關重要。

- We need to be reminded of the priority of prayer if we're to be servants who live for God's Kingdom.

如果我們要成為為神的國而活的僕人，我們需要被提醒禱告是優先次序的重要。

- If we follow the model of the Lord's Prayer, our prayers will be God-centred, as we put God first & seek his will, not our own.

如果我們遵循主禱文的模式，我們的禱告就會以神為中心；因為我們把上帝放在第一位，並尋求他的旨意，而不是我們自己的意願。

- As we pray for God's Kingdom to come, we need to be making every effort to herald that Kingdom ... witnessing, loving, bearing fruit, forgiving. We work with God in God's strength to reach out with the gospel, not holding back, & create every opportunity for people of every age to hear the gospel; pray for Boom next week, pray to be bold and invite friends to Alpha; pray for opportunities to share your faith.

當我們祈求神的國降臨，我們需要盡一切努力來宣告這個國的到來……見證，愛，結出果實，寬恕。我們靠著神的力量與神同工，毫不猶豫退縮地傳播福音，並為各個年

齡段的人創造每一個聽到福音的機會；為下週的 Boom 祈禱，祈禱能勇敢地邀請朋友來啟發；祈求有機會分享你的信仰。

- That is praying for God's will to be done; for all generations to hear the gospel, for God's Kingdom to be established.

這就是祈求上帝的旨意行在地上；讓世世代代都能聽見福音，使神的國得以建立。

Answered Prayer (Vietnam Story) 禱告得到了答覆 (越南故事)

Early on in our marriage, we went to Vietnam. We heard of a persecuted evangelical church in the south in Dalat. Bibles smuggled through customs, meet with Doug Nguyen, swapped bible verses: Matt. 9:37 Then he said to his disciples, "*The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.*"

在我們婚姻的早期，我們去了越南。我們聽說在大叻南部有一個受逼迫的福音派教會。我們把聖經偷渡過海關，與阮道格弟兄見面，同分享經文。《馬太福音》9:37，於是他對門徒說：「要收的莊稼多，做工的人少。」

I shared 1 **Thessalonians** 5:17, Paul's encouragement to pray without ceasing. Jesus told the parable of the persistent widow *always pray & don't give up* (Lk 18) Give me an opportunity to share my faith, God answers this prayer.

我分享了保羅在《帖撒羅尼迦前書》5:17，要不住地禱告。耶穌講了一個堅持不懈的寡婦的比喻，要常常禱告，不可灰心。(路加福音 18)。給我一個機會分享我的信仰，上帝回應了這個禱告。

Each Christian's prayer life has common factors about which one can generalise and also uniqueness which no other Christian prayer life will quite match. You are you, and I am I, and we must each find our own way with God...

每個基督徒的禱告生活都有可以概括的共同因素，也有其他基督徒的禱告生活無法比擬的獨特性。你是你，我是我，我們每個人都必須找到自己與上帝相處的方式……

Some of us talk more, others less. Some are constantly vocal. You could have a disciplined time when you pray, get up early, kneel by your bed, lie in bed at night (fall asleep praying), eyes wide open, driving your car. Others cultivate silence before God as their way of adoration, yet we may all be praying as God means us to.

我們中的一些人說話多，另一些人說話少，一些人總是在發聲。禱告時可以有規律的時間，早起，跪在床邊，晚上躺在床上（在禱告中睡著）；睜大眼駕駛汽車時。另一些人則以在上帝面前保持沉默作為敬拜的方式；然而，我們都可以按照上帝的意思祈禱。

Pray without ceasing is to have a running dialogue with God. You don't even have to pray out loud, the scriptures remind us that the Lord knows our thoughts (Ps/139:2); and that God never slumbers (Ps. 121:4).

常常不住的禱告就是不斷的與神對話。你甚至不必大聲祈禱，經文提醒我們，主知道我們的想法（詩篇 139:2）；神從不打盹（詩篇 121:4）。

We can be sure our prayers are answered precisely in the way we would want them to be answered if we knew everything God knows. There is no unanswered prayer. He hears the desires of your heart and responds to your needs in ways beyond your wisdom. Tim Keller

如果我們知道上帝所知道的一切，我們可以肯定我們的禱告就會以我們希望他們得到回應的方式得到回應。沒有未得到回應的禱告。他垂聽你內心的渴望，並以超越你智慧的方式回應你的需要。蒂姆·凱勒

Just as Isaiah prayed, persistently & earnestly pleading with God, what situations or people are you praying for right now? Do you pray for God to come down & revive your heart, & the hearts of others? To free people from sin & death by giving them faith in Christ?

正如以賽亞禱告一樣，執著、懇切地向神祈求，你現在正在為什麼情況、什麼人禱告呢？你是否祈求神降臨並復興你的心以及他人的心？通過讓人們相信基督來將他們從罪惡和死亡中解放出來？

When we pray, it's asking our Father in heaven to keep His promises, to be what He is (merciful) & to achieve His purposes for His glory.

當我們祈禱時，就是請求我們的天父信守他的諾言，成為他（仁慈的）的樣子並為了他的榮耀而實現他的目的。

At the end of the day, we need to bring all things before God and recognise that: *to pray is to accept that we are, and always will be, wholly dependent on God for everything.*

歸根結底，我們需要將所有的事情帶到神面前，並認識到：禱告就是接受我們現在，並且永遠都會，在一切事情上完全依賴神。

We're going to do this right now and have a time of prayer. To begin, please join with me in The Lord's Prayer.

我們現在就要這樣做，並有一段祈禱時間，首先請和我一起用主禱文。

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and forever, Amen.

我們在天上的父，願人都尊你的名為聖。

願你的國降臨；願你的旨意行在地上，如同行在天上。

我們日用的飲食，天天賜給我們。

赦免我們的罪，因為我們也赦免凡虧欠我們的人。

不叫我們陷入試探。救我們脫離兇惡。

因為國度、權柄、榮耀，全是你的，直到永遠。阿們！

You asked for strength that you might achieve; you were made weak that you might obey. You asked for health that you might do greater things; you were given infirmity that you might do better things. You asked for riches that you might be happy; you were given poverty that you might be wise. You asked for power, that you might have the praise of others; you were given

weakness that you might feel the need of God. You asked for all things that you might enjoy your life; you were given life, that you might enjoy all things. You received nothing that you asked for, all you hoped for; yet your prayers were all answered; each and every one.

你求力量使你可達到;你被變得軟弱, 以至於你可以服從。你求健康使你會做更大的事情;你被賦予了虛弱使你會做更好的事情。你求財富使你可以快樂;你被賦予貧窮, 使你成為聰明的。你求權力使你得到別人的讚美;你被賦予軟弱, 以至於你可能會感到需要上帝。你求得到所有使你可以享受生活的東西;你被賦予生命, 使你能夠享受一切。你沒有得到一切你所求, 你所希望的任何東西;然而, 你所有的禱告都得到了回應;每一個都回應了。