

Sermon 讲道信息
 August 八月 24, 2025
 Titus 提多书 1:1-5; 3:12-15
 Never Alone 永不孤单

Somebody once joked that the only job where you start at the top is digging a hole.

有人曾开玩笑说，唯一从上开始的工作是挖坑。

Serving in a church means servanthood. No matter our role, our position, our responsibility, we are called to be servants. 在教会中服事意味着仆人的身份。无论我们的角色、地位和责任是什么，我们都蒙召成为仆人。

We follow the One who said, "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many."

我们跟随的是那位说："正如人子来，不是要受人的服事，乃是要服事人，并且要舍命，作多人的赎价。"

It's the way of Jesus – it's the way of the follower of Jesus. 这是耶稣的道路，也是耶稣的跟随者的道路。

But this means we live our lives always before the One who calls us to go his way, whatever that way means. And that way can sometimes be very unexpected.

这意思是在呼召我们的那一位面前生活，是去跟从祂的道路，无论这道路意味着是什么；这道路有时是可以出乎意料的。

And so it is today for you and for me. This is the end of my ministry at Trinity. It's not as I or my family expected. It is the way of Christ for us.

而对于今天的你和我也是如此。这是我在三一教会事奉的完结，也不是我或我家人意料之中的。这是基督为我们开辟的道路。

The Scripture today is from Paul's letter to Titus. Titus was someone dear to Paul: my true son, he calls him in 1:4.

今天的经文选自保罗写给提多的信。提多是保罗所珍爱的人：他在 1:4 中称他为作我真儿子的。

Titus is mentioned 13 times in the New Testament. Interestingly, never in Acts. But this doesn't mean he's unimportant. 新约中谈到提多的共 13 次；有趣的是，使徒行传从未提过他，但这并不意味着他不重要。

Titus first appears in Galatians 2:1,3. He joined Barnabas and Paul on the mission to Antioch to raise support for Jewish Christians in Jerusalem during a famine.

提多第一次出现在加拉太书 2:1,3。他与巴拿巴和保罗一起前往安提阿，在饥荒期间为耶路撒冷的犹太基督徒募捐。

But Titus wasn't Jewish. He was a Gentile. He is a living example of God's grace to Gentiles – to people like me, like many of us.

但提多不是犹太人，是外邦人。他是上帝对外邦人（像我和我们中间许多人）施恩典的活生生例子。

He's proof that God's salvation in Jesus is available to any who receive Jesus by faith, trusting in the cross of Christ for forgiveness of sin.

提多证明了凡凭信心接受耶稣、相信基督十字架使罪得赦的人，都能获得上帝在耶稣里的救恩。

When we came to Trinity 8 ½ years ago, one of the great delights for me was to serve in a community of people from different cultures, backgrounds, and languages.

当我们八年半前来到三一教会时，对我来说最大的欣喜之一是能在一个包含了来自不同文化、背景和语言的人所组成的群体中服事。

I remember when I was interviewed for the position of senior pastor, someone asked me how I would relate to people when I didn't speak their language.

我记得当我参加主任牧师职位的面试时，有人问我，当我不会说他们的语言，我会如何与他们建立关系呢？I said that my call is to love people, to listen, to respect, and to serve: I can weep when they weep, laugh when they laugh, serve when they serve, and rejoice when they rejoice.

我说我领受的呼召是去爱人、去倾听、去尊重和去服事：我可以在他们哭泣时与他们一同哭泣，在他们欢笑时与他们一同欢笑，在他们服事时与他们一同服事，在他们喜乐时与他们一同喜乐。

I confess I've only learned a few words in Mandarin and Tagalog – but the imprint you leave on this heart is far greater than I'll ever be able to measure.

我承认我只学会了几句中文和菲律宾语 – 但你们在我心中留下的烙印远远超过了我所能衡量的程度。

You are my Titus and, I pray, I hope I've been yours. 你们是我的提多，我祈求、我希望我也是你们的提多。

And together we are proof that God's salvation in Jesus is available to any who receive Jesus by faith, trusting in the cross of Christ for forgiveness of sin.

我们一同证明了凡凭信心接受耶稣、相信基督十字架使罪得赦的人，都能得到上帝在耶稣里的救恩。

What else do we see in Titus? Look through this letter and we're quick to see that Titus is given a vital ministry.

在提多身上，我们还看到了什么？翻阅这封信，我们很快就会发现提多被委托了重要的使命。

Titus 1:5 says Paul left him in Crete to "put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town as I directed you."

提多书 1:5 说，保罗把提多留在克里特，要他 "将那没有办完的事都办妥，又照我所吩咐你的，在各城设立长老。"

Titus has a specific task to fulfil. It is to continue what others before him had begun. That's always the role of a pastor.

提多有一项特定任务要完成，就是继续他前辈已经开始的工作；这一直都是牧师的职责。

Pastors may come with ideas, motivation, and vision. During my years here, I've had the privilege of witnessing some great ideas and vision!

牧师可能带着想法、动力和异象而来。在我任职的这些年里，我有幸见证了一些伟大的想法和异象！

We've had building upgrades (steps, ramp, roof, dishwasher, fridge, cushions, A/V, Daycare play area).

我们对建筑物进行了升级（台阶、坡道、屋顶、洗碗机、冰箱、坐垫、影音系统、日间托儿服务的活动区）。

We've enjoyed great times of fellowship (camps, barbecues, senior teas, Chinese New Year dinners, birthday celebrations, New Beginnings end-of-month testimonies).

我们享受过美好的团契时光（夏令营、烧烤活动、耆英茶聚、春节聚餐、生日庆祝、New Beginnings 团契月末见证）。

We've survived massive changes – just think of COVID, Zoom, pre-recorded services.

我们共同度过了巨大的变更 – 想想新冠疫情、Zoom、预先录制崇拜。

We've seen faithfulness in countless ways: flowers, kitchen, ESL volunteers, ushers, translators, visitation.

我们见证了无数的忠心服事：鲜花、厨房、英语班志愿者、招待员、翻译、探访。

We've grown because of leaders like James Smith or because of evenings like Acts 2:42 or because of dedicated small group leaders.

我们能够成长，是因为有像史密斯（James Smith）这样的领袖，或因为有像使徒行传之夜 的晚间聚会，又或因为忠心小组组长。

We've run, jumped, hit, and smashed – all in sports games on Sunday afternoons or mid-week.

我们跑过、跳过、打过、砸过 – 都是在周日下午或周间的运动中。

We've prayed – in Saturday morning prayer times, in small groups, at baptisms, over Zoom, at communion.

我们一起祷告 – 在周六早上的祷告会、在小组、在浸礼、通过 Zoom、在圣餐时。

We've worshiped: with handbells, sanctuary and Daycare choirs, organ, drums, piano, guitars, violin, flute, and the beauty of a congregation's voice!

我们一同敬拜：用手铃、唱诗班和日间托儿唱诗班、管风琴、鼓、钢琴、吉他、小提琴、长笛，还有会众的美妙歌声！

We've celebrated a church anniversary, bounced on inflatable castles, danced to Kids' Bible Adventure music, and even been dunked in cold water at Canada Day festivities.

我们一同庆祝教会周年纪念，在充气城堡上蹦跳，在儿童圣经探险周的音乐中起舞，甚至在加拿大国庆日的庆祝活动中浸入冷水。

But here's what excites me about these and many others – very few of these were my idea!

但让我兴奋的是，这些活动和其他许多活动，只有很少部分是我的主意！

And many of these were already part of Trinity's life before I came.

其中大部分在我来之前，就已经是三一教会生活的一部分了。

A pastor's call is to continue what God is already doing! And God is at work here!

牧师的使命就是继续神已经在做的工作！而神正在这里工作！

No pastor or leader is the centre of Trinity – you know that. None of us is. Only Jesus.

没有哪位牧师或领袖是三一教会的中心 – 你们知道这一点。我们都不是中心，只有耶稣才是。

But here's the challenge to you now: be like Titus – continue to do what God is doing and put in order what remains unfinished.

但这是你们现在面临的挑战：像提多一样 – 继续做神正在做的工作，把未完成的事安排好。

Pray for the Board – we have an excellent board.

为理事会祷告 – 我们有个优秀的理事会。

Pray for and encourage the pastors – this team of pastors is probably the finest I've ever had the privilege of working with.

为牧师们祷告并给予鼓励 – 这牧师团队可能是我有幸共事过最优秀的团队。

Give thanks for Trinity staff: Maria, Grace, Tess, Precy, Albin and Rona, and Lulu.

为三一教会的员工感恩：玛利亚 Maria、格蕾丝 Grace、苔丝 Tess、普雷西 Precy、阿尔宾 Albin 和罗娜 Rona、以及露露 Lulu。

Give generously to God's work here.

为上帝在这里的工作慷慨解囊。

Devote yourselves to one another in unwavering love and compassion.

以坚定不移的爱和怜悯彼此付出委身。

Proclaim the Good News.

宣扬福音。

Welcome sinners that they may become saints.

欢迎罪人好让他们成为圣徒。

These are the tasks that remain unfinished.

这些都是尚未完成的任务。

There is, nevertheless, something I have done. And I trust done faithfully.

尽管如此，我还是做了一些事情。我相信我已经忠实地完成了。

Paul tells Titus to look for the kind of leaders who, he says in Titus 1:9, "hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it."

在提多书 1:9，保罗告诉提多要寻找这样的领袖：“坚守合乎教义的可靠之道，就能将健全的教导劝勉人，又能驳倒争辩的人。”

If there is something I believe I have done here and done to the best of the ability God has given me, it is this: I have preached the Gospel faithfully.

如果说我在这里做了什么，并且是尽了上帝赋予我的能力去做的，那就是：我忠诚地传扬了福音。

I have taken this book – the Bible – and expounded it with care, with conviction, and with commitment to the central message of the Bible: Jesus Christ is Lord.

我已把这本书 – 圣经 – 用心阐释，带着坚定的信心，委身于圣经的核心信息：耶稣基督是主。

I have done this at weddings, at funerals, at NBF camp, at Chinese New Year dinners, at ESL opening and closing

ceremonies, in staff meetings, at retreat days with the Board, in mid-week devotions, in private conversations, and on Sunday mornings.

不同场合我都这样做：在婚礼上、葬礼上、NBF 夏令营、春节晚宴、英语班开幕与闭幕式、同工会议、与理事会的退修日、周间灵修、私下交谈以及主日早上。

I have run that race as God has given me strength.

因为上帝给予我力量，所以我跑了当跑的路。

So, I say this from the bottom of my heart: to preach the Gospel – and to preach the Gospel here at Trinity – has been one of the greatest joys of my life – and I will never be able to thank you enough and thank my Lord enough.

因此，我由衷地说：传扬福音 – 在三一教会传扬福音 – 是我一生中最大的喜乐之一 – 我永远都不能充足地感激你们和感谢我的主。

What I say to you now then is this, from Titus 2:11-14: “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”

我现在要对你们说的是根据提多书 2:11-14：“因为，神救众人的恩典已经显明出来，训练我们除去不敬虔的心和世俗的情欲，在今世过克己、正直、敬虔的生活，等候福乐的盼望，并等候至大的神和我们的救主耶稣基督的荣耀显现。他为了我们的缘故舍己，为了要赎我们脱离一切罪恶，又洁净我们作他自己的子民，热心为善。”

My preaching has always been to keep our eyes on Jesus – he alone is our salvation.

我传扬的道总是让我们集中在耶稣身上，唯有祂才是我们的拯救。

My preaching has always attempted to ground Biblical truth in everyday life.

我传扬的道总是试图将圣经真理植根于日常生活中。

My preaching has always wanted to connect the glory of the Gospel with the needs of this world. 我传扬的道总是想将福音的荣耀与世界的需要联系起来。

And my preaching has always endeavoured to remind us that when we keep our eyes on Jesus, our lives must change too – live godly lives now and live hopeful lives now for Jesus will return.

我传扬的道总是竭尽全力地提醒我们，当我们定睛于耶稣，我们的生活也必须改变 – 现在就过敬虔的生活，现在就过满有盼望的生活，因为耶稣会再来。

So what now? One of the other times Titus is mentioned in the New Testament is in 2 Timothy 4:10.

那么现在如何呢？新约圣经中说到提多的另一处是提摩太后书 4:10。

2 Timothy is Paul’s last letter – the letter he wrote before he was martyred by the Emperor Nero. It’s his last word.

提摩太后书是保罗的最后一封信 – 是他在皇帝尼禄命令下殉难之前写的。这是他的遗言。

In 4:10 he briefly says, “Titus to Dalmatia”.

他在 4:10 简短地说：“提多往挹马太去。”

By the time Paul writes 2 Timothy, Titus’ work on Crete is completed and now he is on to his next ministry duty – Dalmatia, part of modern-day Croatia.

在保罗写提摩太后书时，提多在克里特的工作已经完成，现在他要去进行下一个事工 – 挹马太，就是今天克罗地亚的一部分。

My time at Trinity has ended sooner than I expected. I confess much sadness and grief as I weighed this decision and sought God’s guidance and the guidance of mature Christian friends, leaders in our denomination, and medical professionals.

我在三一教会的时间比我预期的更早结束。我承认，在权衡这个决定时，在寻求上帝引导和成熟基督徒朋友的指引上，并咨询我们联会的领袖以及医学专家的指导时，我都感到非常悲伤和难过。

I know this is the right step, as hard as it has been. God is taking us to a new ministry – focused on our children.

我知道这是正确的一步，尽管这是很艰难的一步。神正带领我们进入新的事奉 – 专注于我们的孩子。

At the beginning of this month Catherine sent me a quote: “The quality of your parent-child relationship outranks every other factor in predicting your child’s lifelong mental health. Not your rules. Not your discipline style. Not your parenting techniques. It is the connection you have itself that matters.”

本月初我妻子凯瑟琳 Catherine 给我发了一段话：“在预测你孩子一生的心理健康方面，亲子关系的质量高于其他任何因素。不是你的规则，不是你的管教方式，不是你的养育技巧；重要的是你们之间的联系本身。”

This is my calling now. Now I am called to live the Gospel as I care for my family.

这是我现在的呼召：现在我被呼召在照顾家人中活出福音。

Perhaps my regular preaching is over – that’s up to Jesus – but now the sermon of my life really begins.

也许我的常规讲道已经结束 – 这取决于耶稣 – 但现在我生命的讲章才真正开始。

So I look forward, but I also look back. There will always be part of my heart here.

因此，我向前看，但也向后看。这里永远都在我内心的一部分。

George Eliot, the nineteenth-century English authoress, known by her pen-name “George” because no one would accept her books if they knew she was female, once said, “Only in the agony of parting do we look into the depths of love.”

十九世纪英国女作家乔治·艾略特（George Eliot，采用笔名“乔治”是因为如果人们知道她是女性，就没有人会接受她的书）曾说过：“只有在离别的痛苦中，我们才能看到爱的深度。”

Titus finished the ministry given him on Crete – and then moved on to Dalmatia. He had to leave Crete.

提多在克里特完成了他的使命，然后前往挹马太。他必须要离开克里特岛。

It was the same for Paul too. In Acts 20, Paul says farewell to the leaders of the church in Ephesus.

保罗也是如此。在使徒行传二十章，保罗向以弗所教会的领袖们道别。

It’s impossible to read Acts 20 without a tear in our eyes.使徒行传二十章时，我们不可能不热泪盈眶。

“Now”, he says in Acts 20:32, “I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

保罗在使徒行传 20:32 说：“现在我把你们交托给神和祂恩惠的道；这道能建立你们，使你们和一切成圣的人同得基业。”

Paul knew that he’d never see his beloved Ephesians friends again – the Lord was taking him on the final phase of his life – to Jerusalem and then, through a series of trials, eventually to Rome where he would ultimately be martyred.

保罗知道他再也见不到他所爱的以弗所朋友 – 主正带他进入人生的最后阶段：前往耶路撒冷，然后经历一系列考验，最终前往罗马，在那里他将最终殉道。

Acts 20 is therefore one of the most tender moments in the Bible: Paul and the Ephesians leaders say goodbye.

因此，使徒行传二十章是圣经中最温馨的时刻之一：保罗和以弗所与领袖们道别。

Listen to Acts 20:36-37: “When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him.”

请听使徒行传 20:36-37：“保罗说完了这些话，就和大家跪下来祷告。众人痛哭，抱着保罗的颈项跟他亲吻。”
I’m not proposing that we kiss, but I will pray and embrace. Most of all, I will hold you in my heart, echoing Acts 21:1: “After we had torn ourselves away...”

我不是在建议我们亲吻，但我会祈祷和拥抱。最重要的是，我会把你们放在心里，模仿使徒行传 21:1：“我们离别了众人.....”

Catherine, Dakota, Skylyn and I tear ourselves away. It’s God’s path, we know. But we “tear ourselves away.”

Catherine, Dakota, Skylyn 和我离别众人（有依依不舍地离开的意思），我们知道这是上帝的旨意，但我们拽走了自己。

Yet this is not the final word. Look again at Titus – at the last sentence of this letter: Grace be with you all.

但这还不是最后的结局。再看提多书这封信的最后一句：“愿恩惠与你们众人同在。”

It's a blessing; it's a prayer. It's a promise; it's a plea. It's Paul's way of saying, "May you always know this great love of God, may you always keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, may you always show this same grace to others, and may you always be bonded together in this grace."

这是祝福，也是祷告。这是承诺，也是恳求。保罗要表达的是：“愿你们永远知道上帝的大爱，愿你们永远定睛在耶稣身上，愿你们永远向别人展示同样的恩典，愿你们永远在这恩典中合一”。

We part – you and I. But we never walk alone. Grace – the grace of God in Christ Jesus – is with us all.

我们分离 – 你和我，但我们永不孤独前行。恩典常与我们同在，就是上帝在基督耶稣里的恩典。

Here's a story I've told before. 这里有一个我以前讲过的个故事。

It must have been sometime in the early 1980s. I had my first car – a Morris Minor – a car that looks like an upturned jello mould and drives like one too.

应该是上世纪 80 年代初，我有了自己的第一辆车 – 莫里斯-米诺 Morris Minor，这辆车看起来就像一个底朝天的果冻模子，开起来也像。

One time as I was driving round the 3-lane one way road in my hometown. It was rush hour. I was driving at 50 kms. My brakes failed.

某天我在家乡的三线单向行车道上开车。那正是交通高峰期，我的车速是 50 公里。我的刹车失灵了。

As it happened, I could turn into a side road with enough of an incline that the car came to a safe stop. But now what?

刚好，我可以拐进一条小路，而这小路有足够的倾斜度使车子安全地停下来。但现在怎么办呢？

I called my dad (not on a cell phone – they were not invented then: I had to use a public phone in a phone booth).

我给爸爸打电话（不是用手机，因为那时还没有发明手机，我只能用电话亭里的公用电话）。

Dad came with his large Nissan car. We tied a tow rope between us – me and my car in front, dad behind.

爸爸开着他的大型日产汽车来了。我们在中间系了一根牵引绳：我和我的车在前面，爸爸和他的车在后面。

The idea was simple: dad could use the brakes on his car to pull mine to a halt. We only had about 3 kms to get home, though we had to negotiate several busy roads, a steep downward incline, and two busy intersections.

想法很简单：爸爸可以用他车的刹车把我的车拽停。虽然我们 must 经过几条繁忙的道路、一条陡峭的下坡路和两个繁忙的十字路口，但我们与离家只有大约 3 公里。

But as we drove, the sight of a small car appearing to pull a large Nissan was odd. People looked. People pointed.

Thankfully we made it.

但是，当我们开着车时，一辆小车拉着一辆大型日产汽车的景象很奇怪。人们纷纷侧目、指指点点。幸好我们成功了。

Why tell you this? The strength was in my dad's car and in his skill. And I could trust my dad. I had confidence in him. I was never alone!

为什么要告诉你们这故事？力量是自我爸爸的车和他的技术。我可以信任我爸爸，我对他充满信心。我从不孤单！

God our Father is with us, with me and my family, with you and yours, and with Trinity.

我们的天父上帝与我们同在，与我和我的家人同在，与你和你的家人同在，与三一教会同在。

I pray the best days for Trinity lie ahead. I know you will have confidence in our heavenly Father. 我祈求三一教会在前面有美好时光。我知道你们会对我们的天父充满信心。

We are never alone. Grace be with you all, my dear, dear friends.

我们从不孤单。愿恩惠与你们众人同在，我最亲爱的朋友们。