

Sermon 讲道信息
December 十二月 21, 2025
Luke 路加福音 15
Advent Love: Love That Goes Far 将临期之爱: 毫无保留的爱

It is wonderful to be with you again Trinity Baptist.

三一浸信教会的弟兄姐妹们，能再次与你们相聚，我深感欣喜。

On this final week of Advent, we lit the candle of LOVE. As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, we have heard Isaiah call us to hope, to peace, to joy and now we hear him call us to LOVE.

在将临期的最后一周，我们点燃了“爱”的蜡烛。当我们预备心灵迎接将要来临的基督，听到了以赛亚呼召我们进入盼望、平安、喜乐；现在我们再次听见他呼召我们进入“爱”。

But what does Advent love look like?

但将临期之爱是什么样的呢？

Many of our Christmas songs give us one picture of Christmas love: “Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow” talks about dreaming about the future with the one you love.

许多圣诞歌曲描绘了圣诞之爱的画面：其中一句歌词唱着“Let it snow, Let it snow, Let it snow”（让雪飘呀飘）唱的是与心爱之人一起憧憬未来；

In “All I Want for Christmas is You,” Mariah Carey tells the one she loves that he is the only present she wants.

在另一首圣诞歌“All I Want for Christmas Is You”（你是我的圣诞愿望）里，玛丽亚·凯莉告诉她所爱的人，他就是她唯一想要的圣诞礼物；

Elvis sings “Blue Christmas” because he is missing the one he loves.

猫王在“Blue Christmas”（忧郁的圣诞）中唱出对所爱之人的思念。

You would almost think that Christmas is just another Valentine’s day.

你几乎会以为，圣诞节不过是另一个情人节。

No judgment though. I too have been confused. I thought I knew love when I found Tracie. I thought I had found the love of my life.

不过不是批评，我也曾经糊涂过：当我遇到崔西时，我以为懂得爱情，我以为找到了此生挚爱。

She was a little older, but that was ok. That just meant she could reach the doorknob. You see, she was 4 while I was only 3.

她年纪比我大一点，但那没关系，那只是意味着她能摸到门把而已。你看，那时她四岁，我才三岁。

One day we used this to escape into the big world outside our apartment building.

有一天，我们利用了这身高的优势，成功逃离了公寓大楼，跑到外面广阔的世界。

My parents and her mom went on a desperate search, only to find Tracie and I sitting on the curb on a busy street watching the cars go by.

我的父母和她的母亲焦急万分地四处寻找，最终发现崔西和我正坐在繁忙的街道路边，望着来往的车辆。

I was sure that true love looked like my heart beating fast for Tracie. The true love that day was our parents’ all out search for us!

我曾确信，真爱就是我为崔西心跳加速的模样。而那天的真爱是我们的父母为寻找我们倾尽全力！

What does Advent love look like?

将临期之爱到底是什么样的呢？

The verse we read sounds hopeful: “Then your light will break forth like the dawn.” As people called to carry God’s light, that sounds like success.

我们读到的经文听起来充满盼望：“这样，必有光如晨光破晓照耀你”。作为蒙召传递神之光的人，这听起来像成功。

In fact, when we think about love in the Christmas story, this promise of the light at dawn sounds a lot like the blessing that Zachariah gave as soon as he could speak again (Luke 1 : 78-79).

事实上，当我们思考圣诞故事中的爱时，这“有光如晨光破晓”的应许，很像撒迦利亚在重新开口说话后所给的祝福（路加福音 1:78-79）：

“because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

“因我们神怜悯的心肠，叫清晨的日光从高空临到我们，要照亮坐在黑暗中死荫里的人，把我们的脚引到和平的路上。”

Because of the love of God, he sent light for those in darkness. God’s love goes out.

因着神的爱，祂差遣光照亮黑暗中的人。神的爱向外倾注的。

What does Advent love look like?

将临期之爱是什么样的呢？

Let me take you to a place you may not expect in an Advent sermon – Luke 15.

请容我带你到将临期讲道信息中意想不到的经文——路加福音 15 章。

Jesus is being criticized for his connection with “sinners”. The despised of his day are coming to hear him preach and he is even eating with them.

耶稣正因与“罪人”来往而受到批评。那些在当时被人厌弃的人来听耶稣讲道，祂甚至与这些人同席用餐。

Religious people of Jesus’ day did not associate in this way with those seen as unclean. God was separated from sinners unless they kept the whole law.

耶稣时代的宗教人士绝不会与那些被视为不洁之人如此往来。除非罪人完全遵守律法，否则上帝是与罪人隔绝的。

No, Jesus says. You don’t understand the heart of the Father. Jesus has heard the Father say, “You are my beloved son” and now Jesus tells them a story to show what the Father is like.

但耶稣说：不，你们不明白天父的心意。耶稣曾听见天父说：“你是我的爱子”，现在祂告诉他们一个故事，好让他们明白父究竟是怎样的。

So let me invite you into this story, to listen for the heartbeat of God.

所以，我邀请你进入这个故事，聆听上帝的心肠。

There was a man who had two sons. The younger demanded his share of the inheritance, then wasted the money and was reduced to feeding unclean pigs. He decided to beg his father to take him back as a servant.

一个人有两个儿子。小儿子要求父亲把他应得的家业分给他。后来，他浪费钱财，甚至沦落到要在田里去放不洁的猪。他决定去求父亲收他作雇工。

“So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”

“于是他起来，往他父亲那里去。相离还远，他父亲看见，就动了慈心，跑去拥抱着他，连连亲他。”

The father refused to allow him to be a servant, instead dressing him like a full son again, for as the Father said, “Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

父亲拒绝让他当雇工，反而给他穿上符合儿子的完全身份的衣服，因为父亲说：“‘我们来吃喝庆祝；因为我这个儿子是死而复活，失而复得的。’他们就开始庆祝。”

But when the older son heard the partying and discovered his younger brother had been welcomed back, “he was angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

当大儿子听见奏乐跳舞的声音，得知弟弟被接纳回来，“大儿子就生气”，不肯进去，他父亲出来劝他。

But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

“他对父亲说：‘你看，我服侍你这么多年，从来没有违背过你的命令，而你从来没有给我一只小山羊，叫我和朋友们一同快乐。但你这个儿子和娼妓吃光了你的财产，他一回来，你倒为他宰了肥牛犊。’”

“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

“父亲对他说：‘儿啊！你常和我同在，我所有的一切都是你的；可是你这个弟弟是死而复活，失而复得的，所以我们理当欢喜庆祝。’”

This story is often called “The Parable of the Prodigal Son” but the main character is the Father. Remember Jesus is defending His ministry with sinners and saying, “you’ve misunderstood my Father.”

这个故事常被称为《浪子的比喻》，但真正的主角其实是父亲。请记住，耶稣是为祂与罪人在一起的事工辩护，并且说：“你们误解了我的父。”

The Scandalous Father 令人震惊的父亲

Because of our cultural distance it’s easy to miss the emotion of the first hearers. The whole story would have been filled with covered mouths, “what, no way, he wouldn’t do that...”

由于文化隔阂，我们很容易忽略最初听众的情感反应。整个故事中定充满捂嘴的惊呼：“什么？不可能！他不会这么做的...”

What does He do that’s so odd? In that culture, your honour defined your standing in your community and was even your credit, the basis of business deals.

他究竟做了何等异常的事？在当时文化里，荣誉决定一个人在社群中的地位，更是一个人的信用（商业交易的基石）。

“Give me my inheritance,” a rude act in our culture was shocking there. The son wishes him dead and yet He gives.

“把我应得的家业分给我”——在我们文化中已属无礼之举，当时更是令人震惊的。儿子盼他父亲早死，但父亲却依然给他。

And it gets worse. In that time when the inheritance was divided, the sons couldn't really use it. The father had the right to live off it.

不止如此，当时家业分配后，儿子并不能真正随意使用，父亲有权从中获取生活所需。

But this son likely sold land and wasted the money. Land was scarce so this was a scandal... and then to squander the money? This son would have been seen as deserving hatred and scorn.

但这个儿子很可能已变卖土地并挥霍钱财。土地稀缺，所以这就是一桩丑闻……更何况挥霍金钱？人们认为这儿子理当被厌弃、被唾骂。

The Father's response was unheard of. He's apparently been watching day and night for the son's return. He sees him, and what does love look like?

而父亲的回应却是前所未闻的。他显然日夜守候着儿子的归来。他看见儿子而他的爱是用什么姿态表现？

He runs out to him, protecting him from community abuse. He humiliates himself to welcome his son.

他奔向儿子，保护他免遭社群的辱骂。父亲甘愿受屈辱，为要欢迎儿子回家。

The Father welcomes him not just to the subsistence level of a slave who could slowly pay him back but invites him to return as a full son.

父亲接纳他，不是让他停留在勉强糊口、慢慢偿还的奴仆地位，而是让他恢复儿子完全的身份回归。

And if you think the Father's humiliation is over you're wrong. Just as he regains one son it becomes apparent he has another prodigal in his family.

如果你以为父亲的屈辱就此结束，你就错了。就在他找回一个儿子时，家里的另一个浪子便显露出来。

The older son refusing to go in was also dishonouring. He was expected to act as the host and join the family in welcoming the prodigal. Instead he humiliates his father by refusing and arguing.

大儿子拒绝进屋的行为同样是在羞辱父亲。他本该作为主人，与家人一同迎接浪子归来。他却以拒绝和争辩羞辱了父亲。

What is the Father's response? Punishment and anger? No, just like to the younger son He goes out-and welcomes him in.

父亲如何回应？惩罚与愤怒？不，他如同迎接幼子般，走出家门、张开双臂接纳他。

The Compassionate Father 满有怜悯的父亲

We're not left to doubt what motivated the father. Was he a pushover whose children took advantage of him? Did he give in because he had no courage?

我们无需怀疑父亲的动机。他是容易被人影响、被孩子占便宜的人吗？他是因怯懦而妥协吗？

No this was a compassionate man who thought every child was worth an all out search.

不，这位满有怜悯的人深信每个孩子都值得倾尽全力寻找的。

Because of his scandalous compassion, He Goes Out to where his children are in darkness to welcome them to the light. 因着他令人震惊的怜悯，他走出去，去到沉沦在黑暗中的儿女中，迎接他们归向光明。

Jesus says this is what God's love is like. Can you see God this way? Watching down the road for you, Wanting a relationship with a beloved Child, Waiting to welcome you home?

耶稣说，神的爱就是这样。你能如此看见神吗？祂在路旁守望你归来，渴慕与至爱的儿女建立关系，等待迎接你回家。

Not a servant that he just pays but a daughter or son with whom He can share His life.

祂要的不是受雇的仆人，而是能分享生命的女儿或儿子。

It's scandalous how far He goes. How far you ask? Think of the Biblical story. In the first book of the Bible he goes down to the garden to talk with Adam and Eve AFTER they ignore his instructions. WHILE they are hiding.

祂走得有多远是令人震惊的。你问祂走得有多远？且看圣经的记载：在创世记中，当亚当夏娃违背祂的命令之后，在他们藏匿之时，祂亲自去到伊甸园与他们对话。

How far will God go? 上帝会为你走多远？

Far enough to allow his name to be attached to a small middle-eastern tribe of people who rarely reflected his character clearly.

远到从天上来到地上允许自己的名字与一个鲜少彰显祂性情品格的中东小部落相连。

The people of Israel were constantly shaming his name and yet God goes down to them time and time again. Leading them and sending them water, food, leaders, freedom and offering them a new start.

以色列民不断玷污祂的名，上帝却一次次走向他们，引领他们，赐予水源、食物、领袖与自由，更赐予他们新的开始。

How far will God go? 上帝会为你走多远？

This is the great story of Christmas. God comes down to us as one of us in all our weakness.

这就是圣诞节伟大的故事。上帝降临到我们中间，成为我们当中的一员，亲身经历我们的软弱。

God had his diaper changed, lost teeth, experienced acne and learned to read. God, in Jesus, continues down this scandalously compassionate road far enough to allow himself to be misunderstood, verbally assaulted, betrayed, rejected and put to death.

上帝让人帮他换过尿布，经历过乳牙脱落，长过青春痘，学过识字。在耶稣里，上帝继续走在这令人震惊的怜悯之路，走到祂甘愿被误解、遭辱骂、受背叛、遭弃绝，最终被处死。

That's the scandalous distance the Father came to make sure his rebellious children in far countries could come home.

这令人震惊的距离，就是天父为确保远方叛逆的儿女能归家所跨越的距离。

He's scandalously compassionate. Not out of desperation or low self-image but "For God so loved the world that he gave..."

祂是令人震惊的怜悯。并非出于绝望或自卑，而是因为“神爱世人，甚至...赐下...”

I started with the question "What does Advent love look like?"

我开始时问了：“将临期之爱是什么模样的？”

Think of my parents running out in a desperate search for their 3 year old son.

想象一下我父母焦急奔去寻找三岁幼子的场景。

Think of the Scandalously Compassionate Father running out to his two prodigal sons.

想象那位满有令人震惊的怜悯的父亲奔向两个浪子。

Think of Isaiah and Zechariah prophesying of light going out into darkness. That is what advent love looks like.

想象以赛亚与撒迦利亚预言光明照进黑暗。这便是将临期之爱的模样。

So what do we do with this Advent love?

那么，我们要如何回应将临期之爱？

Deep Acceptance of Advent Love 深深地接纳将临期之爱

We start by accepting the compassionate welcome God offers. I don't know what darkness looks like in your life, but this Advent may you see that God's light and love extend even there.

我们首先要接受上帝给予满有怜悯的接纳。我不知你生命中的黑暗是什么样的，但愿这个将临期，你能看见上帝的光和爱也延伸到那里。

Whether it's the darkness of despair, brokenness or sin; the reckless living of the younger son or the harsh legalism of the older son. The compassionate Father runs out to meet us in all of our darkness.

无论是绝望、破碎或罪的黑暗；是小儿子的放荡生活，还是大儿子的严苛律法主义；满有怜悯的父亲总会奔跑出去，进入我们所有的黑暗迎接我们。

Will you accept his full welcome?

你是否愿意接受祂全然的接纳？

Have you heard the heartbeat of the Father and accepted his compassionate welcome? It's only as we accept God's Welcome that we can take the next step in Advent love.

你可曾听见父亲的心跳，并领受祂满有怜悯的接纳？唯有接受神的接纳，我们才能在将临期之爱中迈出下一步。

Wide Extension of Advent Love 广泛地延伸将临期之爱

Now we go back to the beginning. We started with Isaiah's vision of the light shining like the dawn. We've seen How God lived this out by shining his compassion by coming out to us.

现在，让我们回到起点。我们用以赛亚所见有光如晨光破晓照耀开始。我们见证神如何以怜悯之光亲临世间。

But how do we reflect his light? The verses leading up to Isaiah 58:8 give us some ideas:

但我们当如何反射这光？以赛亚书 58:8 之前的经文给了我们启发：

6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?

6 我所要的禁食，
岂不是要你松开凶恶的绳，
解开轭上的索，
使被欺压的得自由，

⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry
 and to provide the poor wanderer with
 shelter—
 when you see the naked, to clothe them,
 and not to turn away from your own flesh
 and blood?
⁸ Then your light will break forth like the
 dawn...

折断一切的轭吗？
⁷ 岂不是要把食物分给饥饿的人，
 将流浪的穷人接到家中，
 见赤身的给他衣服遮体，
 而不隐藏自己避开你的骨肉吗？
⁸ 这样，必有光如晨光破晓照耀你，

Advent love, both our love for God and the love of God shining through us, ends up looking like that scandalously
 compassionate Father who goes out to others in need. Where will that be for you this week?

将临期之爱，无论是我们对上帝的爱，还是上帝借我们照耀出来的爱，最终将呈现的样式，都是按照那位走向
 有需要之人的、满有令人震惊的怜悯之父。本周，你的将临期之爱将在哪里？

May God give you the eyes to see the people he is calling you to show love and give you his Father's heart of
 compassion to feel with them and act for them.

愿上帝赐给你眼睛，看见祂呼召你去爱的人；也赐给你天父的心肠，让你与他们感同身受，为他们采取行动。