

But God is Still God 但神依然是神

Acts 使徒行传 12:1-17 | October 十月 11, 2026 | Sermon 講到信息

Maybe some of us came to church this morning carrying something heavy in our hearts.

也许我们当中有些人今天早上来到教会时，心里正背负着沉重的担子。

Maybe it is a prayer you have prayed many times, but nothing seems to change. A diagnosis. A son or daughter who is far from home, far from faith. A marriage that is struggling. An overwhelming demand from school. A difficulty making a life for yourself here in Vancouver. A grief that still pains your heart. Maybe it is something nobody else even knows about.

也许是你已经祷告过无数次，但似乎毫无改变的事：一份诊断报告；一个远离家乡、远离信仰的儿女；一段陷入困境的婚姻；学校里令人吃不消的压力；在温哥华建立生活所面对的艰难；抑或是至今仍隐隐作痛的哀伤，也许是一件无人知晓的隐密事。

You smile. You go to work. You go to class. You take care of your family. You come to church. You sing the songs. You fellowship. But inside, you are carrying that heavy burden. You have prayed. You have waited. And you are still waiting. 你依然保持微笑，照常上班、上课、照顾家庭。你来到教会，唱诗歌，参与团契。但在内心深处，你仍背负着那份沉重。你祷告过，你等候过，现在你依然在等候。

Perhaps this is true for each and everyone of us, in different ways. I pray that His word would renew and uplift each one of us this morning.

也许我们每一个人都在不同的层面都经历过这境况。我祈求祂的话语今天早上更新我们，再次使我们每人得着力量。

The Church Under Pressure (v.1-5) 在压力之下的教会（1-5 节）

This is where we are in the story of the early Christians. The church has grown. The gospel has spread from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and now to Antioch. People from many nations are becoming followers of Jesus.

这就是我們看到早期基督徒故事的境况。教会已经成长起来，福音已经从耶路撒冷传到了犹太全地、撒玛利亚，如今更传到了安提阿。来自各国各族的人都在成为耶稣的跟随者。

But the church is also facing opposition, religiously and now politically.

然而，教会也正面临着来自宗教並后来加上政治层面的双重逼迫。

Herod Agrippa is currently the king. He wants the approval of the Jewish leaders, so he begins attacking Christians. He kills James, the brother of John. Then he sees that the people like what he has done. So he arrests Peter. Peter is thrown into prison. He is in chains. Guards are watching him day and night.

当时执政的是希律王亚基帕。为了讨好犹太领袖，他开始迫害基督徒。他杀害了约翰的兄弟雅各；见这事讨了犹太人的喜欢，他又逮捕了彼得。彼得被下在监里，被锁链锁着，又有士兵昼夜看守这他。

Herod plans to bring Peter out after Passover and put him on trial. Humanly speaking, things do not look good. And Luke, the author of the book of Acts, does not try to sugar coat this. James is dead. Peter is in prison. The church is afraid.

希律计划等逾越节过后，将彼得提出来审讯。从人的角度来看，局势似乎很恶劣。而《使徒行传》的作者路加并没有试图美化这一切：雅各死了，彼得在监狱里，教会陷于恐惧之中。

The first observation is this: The absence of an answer is not the absence of God.

第一个观察是：没有回应，并不代表神不在。

Sometimes we think that if we belong to God, everything should become easier. That every answer should be given to us how and when we please. But that is not the story of Acts and the early Christians. 有时候我们会以为，只要我们属于神，一切就应该会变得更简单；以为每一个祷告的答案，神总会按着我们所期望的方式和时间给予我们。但《使徒行传》和早期基督徒的故事并非如此。

Following Jesus does not mean that trouble disappears. Actually quite the opposite oftentimes. Sometimes God's people still get sick. Marriages still struggle. Children still make painful choices. People we love still die.

跟随耶稣并不意味着困难就会消失——事实上，很多时候恰恰相反。有时神的子民依然会生病，婚姻依然会遇到考验，孩子依然会做出令人心痛的选择，我们所爱的人依然会死去。

Sometimes we fail hard. Sometimes we pray and the answer is not what we hoped for. The Bible does not hide these things from us.

有时候我们会重重跌倒；有时候我们祷告了，但结果不如所愿。圣经从来没有向我们隐瞒这些实情。

But look at verse 5: So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

但请看第 5 节：“于是彼得被囚在监里；但教会为他切切地祷告神。”

And there is that little word: **But**. Peter is in prison, **BUT** the church is praying earnestly for him. Herod has soldiers. The church has prayers. Herod has power. God is with his church, his people.

请注意其中那个关键的字——“但”。彼得被囚在监里，但教会为他切切地祷告神。希律有精兵，教会有祷告；希律有权势，神与祂的教会（祂的子民）同在。

And I think that is one of the things Luke wants us to see. The situation is real, the danger is real, the fear is real. But God is still there. That he is still God.

我想这是路加希望我们看见的：处境是真实的，危险是真实的，恐惧也是真实的；但神依然在那里，祂依然是神。

And notice something else, as well. James has just been killed. The church most likely prayed before but James still died. Now Peter is in prison. Yet, the church gathers and prays again. They do not say, “We prayed before and nothing happened, why should we bother?” They still pray together. That is a real image of faith.

不仅如此，雅各刚刚殉道，教会先前很可能也为过雅各祷告，但他还是死了。如今彼得又被关进监狱，但教会再次聚集起来祷告。他们没有说：“我们之前已经祷告了也没用，何必多此一举呢？”他们依然一起祷告——这就是真实的信心。

Faith doesn't mean we always understand what God is doing. Faith means we continue to bring our lives to God even when we don't understand. It is one of the most fundamental things about the Christian life. It is also one that I find we often need reminding the most.

信心并不意味着我们总能明白神的作为；信心乃是即使在不明白的时候，依然选择将自己的生命不断交托给神。这是基督徒生命最根本的事情之一，也是我们最需要被反复提醒的真理。

I am sure that many of us can relate to the early church at that moment. In that room. We prayed for something, and God did not answer the way we wanted. But we prayed again. And maybe we are still praying.

我相信，我们当中许多人都能与那时的早期教会（那间屋子里的弟兄姊妹）产生共鸣：我们曾为某事祷告，神没有按我们的心意回应；但我们再次祷告，也许直到现在我们仍然在祷告。

Be encouraged and keep praying. Not because God is waiting for us to pray hard enough or pray often enough. But because prayer reminds us that God is in control, even when we are not. Prayer helps us to trust, with peace and confidence, all that we are carrying to him.

请受鼓励，继续祷告吧！不是因为神在等待我们祷告够深切、够频繁，而是因为祷告提醒我们：即使在我们无法掌控，神依然在掌权。祷告帮助我们带着平安与信心，将所背负的一切重担卸给祂。

And sometimes the most faithful prayer is very simple. Lord, help me. Lord, have mercy. Lord, I do not understand. Lord, I trust you. Those prayers from the heart count and God hears them. In the midst of all that is happening, he is still God. 有时，最忠实的祷告往往非常简单：“主啊，帮助我”；“主啊，求你怜悯”；“主啊，我不明白”；“主啊，我信靠你”。这些从心底发出的呼求是具有分量的，神听得见。在一切发生的事情之中，祂依然是神。

The Prisoner Set Free (v.6-11) 被释放的囚犯（6-11 节）

It is now the night before Peter's trial. Peter is asleep and is chained between two guards. We're told that an angel of the Lord comes into the prison. The angel wakes him up and the chains fall off. The angel then tells Peter to get up, put on his belt, sandals, and cloaks.

时间到了彼得受审前一晚。彼得正在睡觉，被锁链锁在两个士兵中间。圣经告诉我们，有主的使者来到监狱里。天使拍醒彼得，锁链就从他身上掉下来。

Then the angel says follow me. Peter follows. They walk past the guards. They come to the iron gate and the gate opens by itself. Peter then proceeds to simply walk out of the prison.

然后天使告诉彼得去束上腰带，穿上鞋子，披上外衣，并对他说：“跟我来。”彼得就跟着他走。他们经过那些看守的士兵，来到铁门前，门竟自动给他们开了。彼得就这样直接走出了监狱。

This part of the story always makes me smile as I picture Peter strolling out the front door of the prison. It must have been the most relaxed prison escape ever!

每当我想象彼得悠闲地从监狱大门走出去，我都忍不住会心一笑——这一定是历史上最从容的越狱了！

The miracle here is simple: God rescued Peter. This rescue has nothing to do with Peter's own abilities. God is the one who rescued him.

这里的神迹很简单：是神拯救了彼得。这场拯救与彼得的个人能力毫无关系，神是拯救他的那一位。

But notice something here. God tells Peter to walk but Peter still has to do some things on his own. To take the step.

但请注意一个细节：神告诉彼得要走，但彼得仍然需要自己行动——亲自跨出那一步。

The second observation is this: The miracle is God's work; the next step is ours.

第二个观察是：神迹是神的作为，踏出下一步是我们要做的。

Peter still has to put on his shoes. He still has to follow the angel. He still has to take the next step. He doesn't know where and how the whole escape will turn out. He only knows the next step.

彼得仍需自己穿上鞋，仍需跟随天使，仍需迈出下一步。他当时并不清楚整个逃跑最终会如何，他只知道下一步。

And sometimes that is how God leads us too. We often want the whole plan. We're much more comfortable if God would tell us exactly what is going to happen, how the situation will turn out, and what the next 5 or 10 years will look like.

神带领我们的方式有时也是如此。我们总是渴望知道全盘计划；如果神将未来会发生什么、事情的结局，乃至未来 5 年或 10 年会是怎样的都摊开在我们面前，我们才会觉得更安心。

But God often does not give us that. Instead, with care, he shows us the next step to take. He calls us to trust him today, take this next step, and keep going.

但神往往不预先透露全貌；相反，祂用爱与关怀让我们看见下一步。祂呼召我们今天信靠祂，踏出眼前的下一步，继续前行。

We may not know what God will do tomorrow, next week, next month, but we can trust him today. We may not know how the whole situation will work out, but we can take the next step with him.

我们或许无法预知明天、下周或下个月神会作什么，但我们今天可以信靠祂；我们或许不知道情况将如何发展，但我们可以与祂一同踏出下一步。

This morning, maybe your next step is to reconnect with someone. Maybe it is to forgive someone. Maybe it is to ask for help. Maybe it's to let go of something you have been holding on to. Maybe to allow yourself to feel joy again. Maybe it is to pray and seek the Lord again. Maybe it is simply to get up tomorrow morning and keep going.

今天早上，也许你的下一步是与某个人重新联系；也许是饶恕某人；也许是开口寻求帮助；也许是放手卸下你一直紧紧抓住的事情；也许是允许自己再次感受喜乐；也许是重新来到主面前祷告寻求祂；又或者，仅仅是明天清晨按时醒来，继续生活下去。

Our call is not to worry about the whole journey. Ask God for grace for the next step today. Peter did not get the whole map. He got enough light for the next step. And that was enough.

神给我们的呼召不是去为整趟旅程焦虑，让我们在今天向祂求恩典，走好眼前的下一步。彼得也没有拿到完整的地图，他只得到刚好照亮下一步的光——但这已然足够。

The Church Is Surprised (v.12-16) 教会感到惊讶（12-16 节）

We're then told that after Peter realizes what has happened, he goes to the house where the church is praying. He knocks on the door and a servant named Rhoda comes to answer. She hears Peter's voice. She knows it is Peter. She then gets so excited that she forgets to open the door!

随后经文提到，彼得意识到所发生的一切之后，就往大家聚集祷告的那所房子去。他敲门，有一个名叫罗大的使女来应门。她一听出是彼得的声音，就兴奋到不得了，以至于忘记把门打开！

I love this part of the story. Rhoda's excitement is so genuine, so human. The very thing that they are praying for is happening literally right in front of her. She is so overjoyed that she forgets to open the door and runs back inside and tells everyone that it's Peter.

我很喜欢这部分的故事。罗大的兴奋是如此真实、如此人性化。他们一直在祈求的事，此时此刻就活生生地呈现在她面前！她高兴得甚至忘了开门，只是拔腿跑回去告诉大家：“是彼得！”

And what do the people say? “You are out of your mind!” They called her crazy! Think about that. They are praying for Peter to be rescued. Not only is Peter rescued, he is standing right outside the door! And they don't believe it.

而大家说了什么呢？“你疯了！”他们以为她神经错乱！想想看：他们正为彼得能够获救而祷告，现在彼得不仅获救了，此刻还正站在门外！他们竟然不敢相信。

I love that Luke tells us this. We see that the people in Acts were not superheroes. They were ordinary people. They were afraid. They were confused. They had strong faith one moment and weak faith the next. And yet God answered their prayers.

我很感谢路加将这一点告诉我们。我们看到《使徒行传》里的这些人并不是什么超级英雄，他们都是普通人，会害怕，会困惑。他们有时候信心满满，但下一刻又陷于信心软弱。然而，神依然回应了他们的祷告。

The third observation is this: Our faith may be weak, but God's faithfulness is not.

第三个观察是：我们的信心或许软弱，但神的信实绝不微弱。

This should encourage each of us. Sometimes we might think “My faith is too weak”, or “my prayer is not good enough”, or “I am struggling too much.”

这应当成为我们的鼓励。有时候我们可能会想：“我的信心太微弱了”、“我的祷告不够好”、或者“我挣扎得太苦了”。

But Acts 12 reminds us that God does not answer our prayers because we pray perfectly. We pray because we need him. 但使徒行传第 12 章提醒我们：神回应我们的祷告，绝非因为我们的祷告完美无瑕。我们祷告因为我们需要祂。

You can come to God with a strong faith. You can come to God with a weak faith. You can come to God and say, “Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.”

你可以带着刚强的信心来到神面前，也可以带着软弱的信心来到祂面前；你可以来到神面前说：“主啊，我信！求你帮助我的不信。”

You can come to him tired. You can come to him confused. You can come to him afraid. You can come to him in your own language. You can come whenever wherever. Just come. Pray.

你可以带着疲惫来，带着困惑来，带着恐惧来，用你最熟悉的语言来，在任何时间、任何地点来——只管来到祂面前，向祂祷告。

There may be days when you feel like you are not praying very well. Pray anyway.

在那些你觉得自己祷告得一塌糊涂的日子里，依然要祷告；

There may be days when you cannot find the right words. The Spirit will intercede for you. Pray anyway. 在那些你词不达意、说不出话来的日子里，圣灵会亲自为你祷告。你依然要祷告；

There may be days when all you can say is, “Jesus, help me.” That is an earnest prayer.

在那些你只能呼唤“耶稣，帮助我”的日子里，那同样是真诚的祈求。

God is not waiting for you to become impressive before you come to him. This has never been the case throughout the whole of scripture. God meets people in their weaknesses, failures, sin, and needs. He wants you to come. He is faithful. He is still God.

神不是在等候你变得足够优秀后才来见祂。纵观整本圣经，神从来都是在人的软弱、失败、犯罪和有需要的时候与人相見。祂希望你来，祂是信实的，祂依然是神。

Tell the Story (v.17) 述说这个故事（17 节）

After all of that commotion, Peter finally comes inside. Everyone is amazed and Peter tells them what happened. But notice how Peter tells the story. He doesn't present himself as the one who escaped by his own strength or cleverness.

经过一番混乱后，彼得终于进到屋里。众人惊奇不已，彼得便向他们细说事情的经过。请注意彼得是如何讲述这故事的：他没有把自己塑造为凭着自己的智慧或能力逃脱的人；

He says, “The Lord brought me out of the prison.” The Lord rescued him. The Lord opened the gate. The Lord did all of it. And then, Peter leaves. The story does not end with Peter becoming famous. The story continues because this is not really a story about Peter. It is a story about God.

而是说：“是主带领他出监的。”是主拯救了他，是主打开了门，是主成就了这一切。说完这些，彼得就离开了。故事并没有以彼得一战成名而落幕，因为这本来就不是关于彼得的故事。这是关于神的故事。

The final observation is this: Our testimony is not about how strong we are, but about how faithful God is.

最后一个观察是：我们的见证不是夸耀自己有多刚强，而是宣告神有多信实。

When God answers a prayer, we thank him. When God provides, we tell the story. And when God does not answer our prayer the way we hoped, we still tell the story of his faithfulness.

当神回应祷告时，我们感谢祂；当神施行供应时，我们述说祂的作为；而当神没有按我们所盼望的方式回应时，我们依然要传扬祂的信实。

Often, we are too quick to tell people what we accomplished. “I worked hard.” “I made the right decision.” “I figured it out.” “I scored 100% on my test”

很多时候，我们急于向人展现自己的成就：“我付出了多少努力”、“我做出了明智的决定”、“我自己解决了难题”、“我考试拿了满分”。

But Peter says something different: “The Lord brought me out.” That should be the testimony of every Christians. That should be our testimony, too.

但彼得用了不同的视角：“主带领我出监。”这应当成为每一位基督徒的见证，也应当成为你我的见证：

“I am here today because the Lord brought me through.”

“我今天能在这里，是因为主带领我挺了过来。”

“I am able to accomplish this because the Lord gave me strength.”

“我能完成这事，是因为主赐给我力量。”

“I am able to ace my exam because the Lord grants me wisdom in my studies.”

“我能在考试中取得佳绩，是因为主在学业上赐我智慧。”

Giving God the glory doesn't mean pretending we didn't work hard. It means recognizing that even our ability to study, to work, our opportunities, our strength, our wisdom, and the results we receive are ultimately gifts from God.

将荣耀归给神，并不意味着我们要否定自己的努力，而是认识到：无论是学习和工作的能力、我们拥有的机会、身体的力量、心中的智慧，还是获得的成果，归根结底都是来自神的恩赐。

Later on in the chapter, Luke tells us that eventually Herod himself dies and this is how the chapter ends: “But the word of God continued to spread and flourished.”

在本章的尾声，路加告诉我们，希律王最终也死了，全章的总结是：“神的道日见兴旺，越发广传。”

That is the point. Herod's story reminds us what happens when human beings believe that their power is ultimate. He had soldiers. He had political power. He could kill James. He could imprison Peter. But he could not stop the purposes of God.

这就是关键所在。希律的故事提示我们：当人以为自己的权力至高无上时，会发生什么。他拥有士兵，掌握政权，能杀死雅各，也能囚禁彼得，但他无法阻挡神的旨意。

Kings come and go. People come and go. Peter comes and goes. James comes and goes. But God's word continues.

君王兴衰交替，人们来来去去：彼得来了又离去，雅各也是来了又去，唯有神的道永远坚立。

The church does not depend on one human person. The gospel does not depend on one human leader. The church belongs to Jesus.

教会并不仰赖任何一个人，福音也绝不依赖某位人类领袖。教会是属于耶稣的。

Trinity, our testimony is not that we have been clever enough, strong enough, or faithful enough to last 112 years. Our testimony is that God has been faithful to us for 112 years.

三一教会的弟兄姊妹们，我们的见证不是因为我们足够聪明、足够强壮或足够忠心，所以能立足 112 年；我们的见证乃是：在这 112 年的岁月里，神始终对我们极其信实！

Generations of pastors have come and gone. Leaders have come and gone. Members have come and gone. Each one of us here, we will go too. But Christ remains. His Word remains. His gospel remains. And his church belongs to him. So tell the story and give all the glory to God.

一代代的牧者来了又去，一位位的领袖来了又去，许多弟兄姊妹来了又去，甚至在座的每一位终有一天也会离去；但基督永远长存，祂的道永不改变，祂的福音永远坚立，祂的教会属于祂！因此，让我们传扬这故事，将一切荣耀归给神。

But God is Still God 但神依然是神

As we conclude, I'd like to bring us back to this question: what do you do with prayers that are still waiting? You prayed. Nothing has changed. And you are wondering where God is. Our text does not give us an easy answer. James died. Peter was rescued. Same God. Different outcomes.

在讲道的尾声，我想带大家回到这问题：面对那些仍在漫长等候中的祷告，我们该如何处理？你祷告了，但什么都没有改变，你禁不住发问“神究竟在哪里？”我们的经文并没有给出一个简单的答案：雅各死了，彼得获救了；同一位神，但有不同的结果。

The Bible does not tell us why James died. So we should be careful not to pretend that we know everything God is doing. 圣经并未向我们透露雅各为何死了，因此我们应当谨慎，切勿装作能看透神正在做的一切。

Sometimes too quickly we say, “God did this because...” or “Everything happens for a reason.” We mean well. But I think often the most faithful thing we can say to someone who is hurting is simply: “I don't know why this happened. But I know God is with you.”

有时我们会脱口而出：“神这样做因为.....”或是“万事发生皆有原因”。我们或许出于善意，但我相信，面对痛苦中的人，我们能最真诚地说的只是：“我不知道为什么这事会发生，但我确信神与你同在。”

Our passage today does show us this clearly: God has not disappeared. James's death did not mean God had lost control. And Peter's rescue did not mean Peter would never suffer again. The Christian life is not a promise that every prison door will open. It is a promise that Jesus will never leave his people. And we see that most clearly at the cross.

今天的经文向我们清晰地展现了一点：神从未消失。雅各的死并不意味着神失去了掌控；彼得的获救也不意味着他从此免受苦难。基督徒的生命并非是“每一扇监门都会打开”的应许，而是“耶稣绝不会离弃祂子民”的应许。我们在十字架上看得最为清楚。

When Jesus was arrested, no angel came to rescue him. Jesus went to the cross. He suffered. He died. And for three days, it looked like the story was over.

当耶稣被捕时，没有天使来拯救祂，耶稣走上了十字架。祂受苦、受死；在三天里，仿佛整场故事已经落幕。But it wasn't, was it? Jesus rose from the grave. And that is the greatest reason we can trust God. The God who raised Jesus from the dead is still our God.

但事实真的如此吗？不！耶稣从坟墓里复活了！这就是我们能够信靠神的最伟大原因。那一位使耶稣从死里复活的神，今天依然是我们的神。

So we keep on praying. We keep on trusting. We keep on taking that next step without seeing the whole map. And we keep telling our stories for his glory.

因此，我们继续祷告，继续信靠，继续在看不清全貌时踏出下一步，并为了祂的荣耀，继续讲述我们的故事。

So whatever you are carrying today, remember that little word in verse 5: **But.**

所以，无论你今天背负着什么，请牢记第 5 节中那小小的字——“但”：

The situation may be difficult. **But God is still God.** 你的处境或许很艰难，**但神依然是神。**

You may be afraid. **But God is still with you.** 你或许满心恐惧，**但神依然与你同在。**

The door may still be closed. **But keep praying.** 那扇大门或许仍然紧闭，**但继续祷告。**

You may not know what comes next. **But take the next step.** 你或许对前路一无所知，**但请跨出下一步。**

Because your story is not finished. The waiting is not the end. The cross was not the end. Jesus is risen.

因为你的故事尚未完结。等候不是结局，十字架不是终点，耶稣已经复活了！

And because Jesus is risen, we can have full confidence that whatever happens, God is still God. Whatever we face, Jesus is still with us. Whatever tomorrow brings, we can take the next step. And whatever story God is writing, he will finish it. For the good of those who love him and for his glory.

正因为耶稣已经复活，我们可以完全确信：无论发生什么，神依然是神；无论面对什么，耶稣依然与我们同在；无论明天如何，我们都可以迈出下一步；无论神正在撰写怎样的故事，祂必定完成——使爱祂的人得益处，使祂的名得荣耀。

Amen. 阿们。