

The Easter Story – as told by Karen Wright



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<p style="text-align: center;">THE EASTER STORY 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Presented by Karen Wright</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">復活節的故事 2024 凱倫偉口述</p>
<p>It's good to be sharing with you again. It's incredible that three months have passed since our Christmas message. At Christmas, when we talked about the birth of Jesus, we focused on the word, "peace." Do you remember how I tried to pronounce it in different languages? I won't try that again today, but think about the word in your first language.</p>		<p>非常高興可以跟你們一起分享，自從聖誕節難以想像三個月已經過去了，在聖誕節我們講到主耶穌的出生，我們關注 " 平安 " 這個字，你還記得我曾經用不同的語言來發音嗎？我今天不會再嘗試用不同語言來發音了。可是你用你自己的語言來想像這個字。</p>
<p>As I prepared this message, I thought of several friends who have been experiencing very difficult times. Adult children of two friends have died recently. A longtime friend recently died of cancer. Dear friends in Chile lost their house to a fire. How could these friends experience peace? The events in our world bring to mind everything but peace.</p>		<p>當我在準備這一篇信息的時候，我想到幾個朋友他們現在都處在很困難的情況當中，有兩個朋他們成年的兒女過世了，有一個認識很久的朋友最近因為癌症死亡了，一個住在智利的朋友他的房子被火燒了！這些朋友怎麼能夠感覺到平安呢？這世界上有那麼多的事情使我們沒有平安！</p>
<p>I am sure that many of you have situations in your families that we would not call peaceful, but today we will continue with the theme of peace, believing that the peace that God offers is possible.</p>		<p>我相信在你們的家庭也會經歷過一些不平安的情況，今天我們要繼續講這個平安的主題，相信神所賜的平安是可能的。</p>

<p>Everything that I share today is based on what the Bible teaches. I want to encourage you, as I did at Christmas, to read it for yourself in your own language. There are papers on your table with information about Bible apps for your phone and also the main references for reading the Easter story.</p> <p>Your table hostess has brought a Bible that she can show you. The Easter story can be read in each of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.</p>		<p>我所分享的都是聖經所教導的，我想鼓勵你用你自己的語文讀聖經，在你桌上有資料關乎一些聖經的軟件你可以下載在你的電話裡，有些經文你可讀復活節的故事，你的桌主會有一本聖經可以給你看，在四福音書裡馬太馬可路加約翰都可以讀到復活節的故事。</p>
<p>To tell the Easter story, we have to go back even before the Christmas story, all the way back to creation. When God created the world, His plan was for everyone to live in peace and harmony. He created a beautiful world, with everything that we would ever need for happiness.</p> 		<p>要來述說復活節的故事，我們要回到以前所講過的聖誕節的故事，甚至要回到最初神創造世界，他的計劃是每個人的生活都平安和諧，他創造了一個美麗的世界，我們可以過幸福的生活！</p>
<p>God created humans with free will, the ability to choose to follow Him and His perfect plan, or to follow their own way. People chose to follow their own plan and to rebel against what God had proposed for them. This decision to follow our own way is called sin, and it has been a part of every human life since the beginning of time.</p>		<p>神創造人類是有自由意志的，他有能力去選擇跟隨神的美好的計劃或者是去跟隨他們自己的道路；人們選擇去跟隨自己的計劃，他們背叛神所為他們預備的計劃，這個決定去跟從自己的計劃是叫罪，自從創世以來罪就在每一個人的生命裡。</p>
<p>You may remember the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis - the first book of the Bible.</p>  <p>Genesis Chapter 3</p>		<p>你可能記得亞當和夏娃的故事在創世紀聖經的第一本書裡</p> <p>創世記第三章</p>
<p>This sin caused us to be separated from God. It has caused all of the pain, suffering, and war which the world has experienced throughout history. Because God is holy, He cannot tolerate sin, but out of His love for us, He made a plan from the very beginning to bring us back into a relationship with Him. This would restore our peace.</p>		<p>這個罪使我們與神分離也造成了所有人類在歷史上所經歷的一切痛苦受罪和戰爭，因為神是聖潔的他不能夠容忍罪可是他非常的愛我們，他在創始的時候已經有一個計劃要把我們帶回到他那裡恢復與他和好的關係。</p>

<p>That's where the Christmas story comes in. After the prophets had told for years about His plan, God sent His son, Jesus, actually God Himself, as a baby to earth.</p> 		<p>聖誕節的故事就在這裡開始了！從前先知們預言了神的計劃，時候到了神終於差遣他的兒子耶穌其實就是神祂自己成為一個嬰孩來到世界。</p>
<p>Do you remember the story from December about Mary and Joseph and the angels who announced His birth to the shepherds? They announced that Jesus would be the Savior of the world. In other words, he would provide a way for sin to be forgiven.</p> 		<p>你還記得十二月份我們講到瑪麗亞，約瑟還有天使對牧羊人宣布了耶穌的誕生嗎？他們宣告耶穌是世界的救主就是說祂會預備一條道路使人的罪得到赦免。</p>
<p>Before we continue, let me share what a couple of the early prophets said about the coming Savior. These prophets lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born.</p> <p>Isaiah said, "there is no peace for the wicked (sinner)" but the effect of righteousness will be peace."</p> <p><i>Isaiah 57:21 and Isaiah 32:7</i></p>		<p>我想和你們分享一下早期的先知預言要來的救主，這些先知是生活在耶穌出生以前幾百年，以賽亞說「惡人必不得平安可是公義的效果就是平安！」</p> <p>賽57:21, 32:7</p>
<p>Zechariah said, "And he shall speak peace to the nations." <i>Zechariah 9:10</i></p>  <p>Remember how the angel announced that Savior had come for all peoples of the earth, and how the Wise Men who came from far away recognized that?</p>		<p>先知撒迦利亞說「祂必向萬國講平安」 撒9:10</p> <p>還記得天使宣告救主要為地上的萬民而來，可是東方的博士他們從遠方來怎麼會知道這件事呢？</p>
<p>This baby grew up and became a man. We don't have much information about the first 30 years of his life, except that he became a carpenter. At the age of 30, he began traveling and telling God's story to people in the Middle East. His message to those who believed in him was a message of peace.</p>		<p>這個嬰兒長大成為了一個男人，祂頭30年的生活我們並沒有太多的資料，除了知道祂是一位木匠，30歲的時候祂開始到處遊行在中東的地區把神的故事告訴人，祂的信息對信祂的人來說就是平安的信息。</p>


<p>Once he gave a message called the Sermon on the Mount, in which he taught how to live at peace with other. His words of wisdom and teaching about God amazed the people.</p> <p><i>Matthew Chapters 5 - 7</i></p> 		<p>有一次耶穌講的信息名叫「登山寶訓」這篇信息裡祂教導人和平的與別人相處，祂充滿了智慧的語言和對神的教導使很多人驚奇。</p> <p>太5-7</p>
<p>Once he calmed a storm on the Sea of Galilee by speaking the words, "Peace! Be still!" The wind ceased.</p>  <p><i>Matthew 8:23-27</i></p>		<p>有一次耶穌在加利利海平靜風浪他只是說了安靜停止吧，浪就大大的平靜了！</p> <p>太8:23-27</p>
<p>After healing a woman who had a bleeding problem for 12 years, he told her, "Go in peace, and be healed of your disease."</p>  <p>His power to calm storms and heal was evidence that he was fully God, as well as fully man.</p> <p><i>Luke 8: 43 - 48</i></p>		<p>耶穌醫治了一個患了12年血漏病的婦人然後對她說平平安安地回去把你的病好了，耶穌有能力平靜風浪和醫治疾病這就是最好的證明他是完全的神也是完全的人！</p> <p>路8:43-48</p>
<p>Even when he knew that his death was coming, Jesus said to his followers, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."</p>  <p><i>John 14: 27</i></p>		<p>當耶穌知道他離世的日子近了，耶穌對他的門徒說「我留下平安給你們，我將我的平安賜給你們」</p> <p>約14:27</p>
<p>The world into which Jesus came was not a peaceful world. The Roman Empire ruled much of the world, including the land where Jesus lived.</p> 		<p>耶穌所來到的世界並不是一個平安的世界，羅馬帝國統治這個世界包括耶穌所住的地方</p>

<p>Religious leaders did not believe that Jesus was the Savior, or Messiah, whom God had promised through his prophets. They were jealous of his popularity and were afraid that he would cause problems with the Romans. One of his own followers even betrayed him and another openly denied him. All of this resulted in Jesus being taken to trial when he was only 33 years old.</p>		<p>宗教領袖不相信耶穌就是神藉先知所預言的要來的救主或是彌賽亞，他們嫉妒耶穌的受歡迎的程度，他們害怕耶穌會和羅馬政府造成困難，耶穌的其中一個門徒背叛他另外一個門徒公開的否認他，因為這一些造成他33歲的時候就被抓去接受審判！</p>
<p>He was tried before the religious leaders and also by the Romans. None of the trials were valid, but they resulted in him being condemned to die.</p> 		<p>耶穌受宗教領袖和羅馬政府的審判，所有的審判都是做假的可是因為這樣他就被判死刑！</p>
<p>The Romans had a very cruel and painful way of executing their criminals, called crucifixion. It consisted of hanging the person on a cross, exposed to the elements. Jesus was first beaten, a crown of thorns was placed on his head, and then he was nailed to the cross, beside two thieves who had also been condemned. One of them actually realized that Jesus was not a criminal and believed in him as Savior while on the cross.</p>		<p>羅馬政府有一種非常殘忍和痛苦的方法來處死罪犯就是釘十字架——把犯人掛在十字架上身體完全的暴露，耶穌受了鞭打戴上荊棘的冠冕，然後他被釘在十字架上，有兩個罪犯在他的左右邊，其中一個認識到耶穌不是一個罪犯，他相信耶穌作他個人救主。</p>
		
<p>The terrible day on which all of this occurred is called Good Friday, which this year is next week.</p> <p>How could such a day be called good? It's because it is the day that Jesus, in his death, paid the penalty or price for all of the sins of the world, for my sins, for your sins, and for all those who have ever lived.</p>		<p>這些恐怖的事情發生的這一天是叫「美好星期五」今年是在下個禮拜五，這麼的一天怎麼能夠說是美好呢？因為這一天耶穌的死付了所有世界上人犯的罪的代價，為你的罪為我的罪為所有曾經活過人的罪。</p>

 <p>The Bible records several of Jesus' words before his death. As he was being nailed to the cross, he said, "Father, forgive them because they don't know what they're doing."</p>		<p>聖經記錄了耶穌在他死前所說的話「父啊赦免他們，因為他們不知道自己所做的是什麼」</p>
<p>Although we can't understand how God could love us so much to allow Jesus to die, that is how much He loved us. Because Jesus was at the same time God and man, he never sinned, so he didn't need to pay for his own sins.</p> <p>He could pay for ours.</p>		<p>雖然我們不能明白，為什麼神愛我們到這個地步讓耶穌去為我們死，因為耶穌他是神也是人他從來沒有犯過罪，所以他不需要為自己的罪付上代價</p> <p>耶穌可以為我們的罪付上代價！</p>
<p>After Jesus' death, his body was removed from the cross and placed in a borrowed tomb, a small cave with a stone rolled in front.</p> <p>Indeed, Good Friday would need to be called Terrible, Horrible Friday if the story had ended there, but it didn't.</p>		<p>耶穌死了以後他的身體從十字架上取下來放在一個借來的墳墓裡—是一個小山洞有一塊大石頭擋在洞口</p> <p>要是這個故事在這裡就結束的話，美好星期五就應該改名叫恐怖可怕的星期五了！可是故事並沒有在這裡結束。</p>
<p>On Sunday morning, some of the women who had followed Jesus went to the tomb to place aromatic spices on the body, as was their custom. As they walked, they wondered how they were going to remove the large stone. They arrived at daybreak, and to their surprise, the stone was rolled away.</p>		<p>在星期天的早上有一些跟隨耶穌的婦女到墳墓去要把香料放在耶穌的身體是當時的習俗，她們在走路的時候就想說怎麼能夠把這麼大的一塊石頭挪開呢？當她們在天剛亮的時候到了那裡，她們很驚訝因為石頭已經被挪開了！</p>
<p>Angels told them that he had come back to life (risen) and that he would see them soon. They ran back to tell Jesus' other followers the astonishing news.</p>	 	<p>天使告訴她們耶穌已經復活了，她們很快就會見到耶穌，她們跑回去告訴耶穌的其他的門徒這個驚人的新聞！</p>

<p>The Bible tells us that Jesus appeared to his followers various times and was on the earth for 40 days before he returned to heaven.</p> 		<p>聖經告訴我們耶穌向他其他的門徒顯現很多次，他在世上四十天然後回到天上去</p>
<p>Jesus did not leave his followers alone. He promised that his spirit, called the Holy Spirit, would be with them, teaching them, guiding them and comforting them. That is the presence of God which we experience in our lives today.</p>		<p>耶穌沒有完全離開他的門徒，他應許他的靈就是聖靈會與他們同在教導帶領安慰他們，這就是我們今天所經歷的神的同在。</p>
<p>So who experiences this peace today? Whose sins are forgiven?</p> <p>By now, it's obvious that we aren't just talking about peace between nations and the absence of war. We're talking about the kind of peace that makes us calm, even when the circumstances around us are frightening.</p>		<p>所以今天誰能夠經歷到這種平安呢？誰的罪已經被赦免呢？</p> <p>現在很明顯的我們知道所講的平安並不是國家之間的和平或是沒有戰爭，我們所講的這種平安是使我們在恐懼和可怕的環境之下還是能夠保持平靜！</p>
<p>It's the kind of peace that when a loved one dies, assures us of the hope of eternal life with God and our loved ones in heaven. It's the kind of peace that removes guilt from our minds and hearts, from things that we know we've done wrong.</p> <p>When Jesus died and rose again, he didn't just automatically forgive everyone's sins.</p>		<p>這一種平安給我們有希望當我們的親愛的人離世的時候我們知道他有永生與神一起在天堂裡！這種平安可以從我們的頭腦和心裡除去我們的罪惡感，因為我們知道我們做了很多錯事！</p> <p>當耶穌死了從死里復活了，他並沒有自動地饒恕所有人的罪。</p>
<p>Remember that God created us with free will, the ability to choose. That means that we have the ability to choose whether or not to accept what Jesus did for us and whether or not to accept his forgiveness.</p>		<p>記得神創造我們的時候是給我們有自由意志，我們有能力去選擇就是說我們可以選擇要不要接受耶穌為我們所成就的，要不要接受他的饒恕。</p>

<p>There is nothing we can do to earn that forgiveness. We can't work for it. All we can do is accept it and realize that God has forgiven our sins. We choose to follow Jesus and the way of life that he gives us.</p>		<p>我們不可以做任何事去賺取罪得赦免，我們不能夠去工作來賺取。唯一能做的就是接受救恩並且認同神已經赦免了我們的罪，我們選擇去跟隨耶穌還有他給我們的生活方式。</p>
<p>That's why Easter is celebrated by Christians all over the world. Since Jesus rose from the grave on a Sunday morning, we celebrate Easter once a year and also gather to worship every week on Sunday.</p> 		<p>所以全世界的基督徒都慶祝復活節，因為耶穌在星期天的早上從墳墓裡出來復活了！我們慶祝復活節一年一次，我們每個星期天也聚在一起來敬拜耶穌！</p>
<p>For those of us who live in the northern hemisphere, we celebrate Easter in the spring. The flowers, the bunnies, and pretty clothes remind us of the life that Jesus gives us. What is most important, however, is what Jesus does for our inner life.</p> 		<p>住在北半球的人，我們在春天慶祝復活節：花，兔子，漂亮的衣服都是提醒我們耶穌所給我們的生命，最重要的是耶穌為我們內在的生命所做的事情！</p>
<p>Christians use the cross as a symbol of their faith. It reminds us what Jesus did in sacrificing his life on a cruel day in order for our sins to be forgiven. But most important - he came back to life to give us eternal life.</p> 		<p>基督徒用十字架來代表他們的信心，它提醒我們耶穌犧牲他的生命為了要赦免我們的罪，可是最重要的是耶穌從死里復活來賜給我們永生！</p>
<p>You may see images of Jesus on the cross.</p>  <p>But the empty cross reminds us that Jesus is alive.</p>		<p>你可能會看到耶穌的形象在十字架上 可是這個空的十字架提醒我們耶穌已經是復活了！</p>

<p>If your children receive plastic Easter eggs this year with candy, after they've removed the candy, remember that the most important event in history can be remembered by the empty Easter egg. The tomb was empty on Easter morning. Jesus is not dead! He is alive!</p> 	<p>如果你們的孩子去撿復活節塑膠鸡蛋裡面有糖果，讓他們把糖果拿走了以後，記得這個空的復活節的蛋會提醒我們在歷史上發生的最重要的一個事件，復活節的早上墳墓是空的耶穌沒有死他已經復活了！</p>
<p>The Bible says that "God proves His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us...we were reconciled to God through the death of His son." (<i>Romans 5: 8 and 10</i>).</p> <p>It also says, "...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."</p> <p>I pray that each of you would experience this peace.</p> <p>Happy Easter!</p>	<p>聖經告訴我們「神的愛向我們顯明因為基督在我們還作罪人的時候為我們死，我們的與上帝和好因為祂兒子的死」。 羅5:8, 10</p> <p>聖經也告訴我們，「藉著我們的主耶穌基督我們有神的平安」！</p> <p>我禱告你們每一位都能夠經歷到這種平安！</p> <p>復活節快樂！</p>