



St John's Cathedral 聖公會聖約翰座堂

Anglican Diocese of Hong Kong Island
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Message of Hope: The moon and the Love of God

1st October 2020
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Dear Brothers and Sisters, peace be with you! Happy Mid-Autumn Festival!

The Chinese have a saying, 'The Mid-Autumn Festival always comes too soon' which means time really flies.

There are many Chinese poems about the moon. One of the examples would be 'Thoughts in the Quiet Night' by Li Bai:

*'Before my head the moonlight glows
Bright and cold like fresh fallen snow
I gaze up, at the fair moon yonder roams
And look down, head bowed, dreaming of home'*

Another example is 'Shuidiao Getou' by Su Shi:

*'People experience sorrow, joy, separation and reunion
The moon may be dim or bright, round or crescent shaped
This imperfection has been going on since the beginning of time
May we all be blessed with longevity
Though thousands of miles apart, we are still able to share the beauty of the moon together'*

When I pay visit to elderly homes, apart from chatting with them, I will usually prepare some entertainments. One of things I like most is to sing with the elderly, and I would pick some golden oldies for them.

A song about the moon that I always sing is 'The Moon Represents My Heart' from Teresa Tang.

*'You ask how deeply I love you
And just how great my love is
My affection is real
And my love is true
The moon represents my heart.'*

Every time when I finish singing, I will ask the elderly a question which I would like to ask you as well. Sometimes we see the moon, but sometimes we don't see it, and sometimes we only see half of it. Does it mean that the moon has gone or it's been eaten?

Of course we know, no matter you see it or not, or in which phase you see it, the moon is still there. It is the same as God's love for people. At times we might feel that God is by our side, but sometimes we might feel that God is far away from us. And we might even ask 'God, are you there?'

If we only know the existence of God by feeling, it is certainly unrealistic. St Paul reminds us in Romans 8:38-39:

'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

St Paul says that in the world, out of all creation, nothing could separate us from the love of God. We know that God's love will be with us always, no matter we feel it or not.

Over the past several months, we may sometimes wonder whether God still loves us. I hope that in this Mid-Autumn Festival, when we take a look at the moon in the sky, bright and shining, we can remind ourselves that just like the moon is there, God is always there by our side, no matter we feel it or not.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. Have a Happy Mid-Autumn Festival!