

Kowloon Union Church
"Where all are one"
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CCLI Licence 5075510
Secretary: Candy Lam
Minister: Maggie Mathieson
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



Baptism of the Lord
8 January 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(* : Congregation stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Spirit of The Living God" – Composer : D Iverson

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

* **HYMN** "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" – Public Domain

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND "Kyrie Eleison" (Lord, have mercy) – Trad. Orthodox Chant

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

* **HYMN** "Spirit, Spirit" – Composer: J K Manley

SCRIPTURE READING

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet.

A light to our path.

Isaiah 42: 1 - 9 (O.T.)

Matthew 3: 13 – 17 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

* **HYMN** "One More Step Along the World I Go" – Composer: S B Carter

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "Following Jesus Where?"

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORDS PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "Ubi Caritas" – Music: Taizé Community

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** "Will You Come and Follow Me?" – Music : trad Folk; Lyrics: Bell & Maule

*** COMMISSION and BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

God does nothing except in response to believing prayer. – John Wesley

Please remember as you pray. . .

- Hundreds of thousands of people have flocked to Rome to pay their final respects to the late Pope Benedict XVI, who passed away last week aged 95. The late Pontiff will be laid to rest on Thursday, with the reigning pope, Francis presiding at the funeral. May his soul rest in eternal peace, and the faithful be comforted at this time of loss.
- Evacuation orders and advisories are in place in northern California as a major storm is expected to slam into the coast. Regions that wildfires have hit in the past were among the first places to be told to evacuate due to concerns about flooding and landslides. May God protect those in the path of the storm and strengthen those whose jobs are in prevention and recovery for affected areas and people.
- Families in Sri Lanka have to choose which child will attend school, a decision needed due to the economic hardships all are facing. Though education in the country is free, there is no provision for uniforms, transportation, books and food for the children, so education has become a luxury many can no longer afford. It is hoped that the government will seek alternative ways to provide these necessities needed by the children to continue with a good solid education.
- The World Health Organisation has warned that China is under-representing the true impact of Covid in the country – particularly the number of deaths. This mistrust of information sharing has had a rippling effect on other countries worldwide as more restrictions are introduced in dealing with those travelling from China. In addition, the WHO has issued very distinct guidelines in record keeping for Covid – which China has decided to ignore and develop their own system. As a result, it is difficult to know the full impact of the virus on people.
- The Ukrainian forces launched a New Year's Day attack on Makiivka, targeting a building used as a dormitory for Russian conscripts. The building was razed to the ground, and the attack brought about many fatalities though the exact number is unknown. We continue to pray for peace in that part of the world and an end to all the bloodshed.
- Here in Hong Kong, the number of daily Covid cases remains high, with over 16,000 reported mid-week. We pray for all who have lost loved ones to the virus, and we remember our frontline staff in hospitals and care and attention centres as they continue to provide for those in need.

- Let us pray for our primary school children as they prepare to return to a whole-day face-to-face school. Many have already started, and others will begin after the Lunar New Year break. May the Lord's hand of protection be on them.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

- We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Iran, Iraq and Syria.

We are **thankful** for:

- the resilience of the people who remain in their homelands even when they face constant threats and ongoing violence
- the relief and assistance that has been provided to so many
- those who have made a new home for refugees fleeing from these countries
- those who have worked continually for peace, justice and reconciliation.

We **pray** for:

- an end to the violence racking these battlefields of global powers
- political leaders emerging in these countries who will pursue peace, the common good, and human rights of all groups
- the international community to pursue policies that will result in acceptable, just peace for all involved
- greater openness to welcoming those displaced or fleeing from these lands, desperately seeking safety and well-being.

For the Congregation

- We pray for the mothers of Alex Melwani, Helen Lee, Florence Tse and Chris Wong, for Mrs Samuel, Anjenette, Habib, Hend, Jeanette Lee, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Chui, Ramon Bultron, Lyn, Lucy Lim, Mercy, Poulis Zaki, Saafa, Selvia and Stella Chan. We remember those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.
- We remember in prayer our dear friends Tony Lo and Justine Wong as they mourn the loss of their precious baby boy Ethan Lo. Baby Ethan lived for 80 days before God called him home. May we hold the family in prayer that they may be comforted. The funeral will be conducted from KUC on Tuesday, 10 January, at 11 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Welcome to all who join our worship in church and through Facebook live streaming. Thank you, Deaconess Joy Prim, for sharing the Word of God with us this day.

This Week's Programs in Church

Tuesday - Peace Making Fellowship in Number 2 Jordan Road at 10:00 am

Wednesday - Harambe at 6 pm
 Lectio Divina – online at 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm
 Friday - Bible Study – online at 10:30 am
 Junior Choir at 4 pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Lectio Divina

Join us for our monthly practice of Lectio Divina on Wed, 11 January, from 8:00 to 9:00 pm. We'll be meeting online via Zoom. Anyone is welcome to join! Visit kuc.hk/lectio for more information and to register.



Sunday, 15 January 2023

The Care and Fellowship Committee will facilitate a ‘Lai See folding Session’
 Upcycle your old Lai See packets to create something beautiful and new.

To register: <https://forms.gle/hEWdDj244o1x5go3A>



18 – 25 January

Week of Prayers for Christian Unity: Click on the QR code for more details



Sunday, 29 January 2023

The Care and Fellowship Committee will host a Lunar New Year Hot Pot gathering here in church following the morning worship. More details will follow next week in the bulletin and in worship.

	TODAY 8 January	NEXT WEEK 15 January
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Joy Prim	Phyllis Wong
Pianist:	Katie Ho	Jessica Tso
Lector:	Caden Lam	Harry Chan
Intercessory Prayers:	Rey Asis	Katie Ho
Family Talk:	Tong Chong Sze	Chan Beng Seng
Greeter:	Edwina Antonio, Stephanie	Kevin Ng, Chris Law
Offering Rota:	Kulvinder Kaur Gabi Baumgartner	Journaliz Badon Rachel Wangari
Counting Rota	Edwina Antonio Rey Asis	Chan Beng Seng Judy Chan
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis	Jailyn Tomitis
I.T. Team:	Tong Chong Sze	Jen Pang

Freewill offering last week : HK\$ 5958
 Promissory offering last week: HK\$5000
 Welfare fund: HK\$ 6000