

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



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
15 January 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(* : Congregation stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Our Eyes Are Turned" – Composer: Taizé Community

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" – Music: B F White Lyrics: S E Murray

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** "I Waited Patiently for God" – Music: Trad Folk Lyrics J Bell

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 40: 1 - 11 (O.T.)

John 1: 29 – 42 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

*** HYMN** "Faithful One" – Composer: Brian Doerksen

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "Come and See"

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "O Lord Hear Our Prayer" – Music: Taizé Community

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

*** HYMN** "Lord, You Have Come to the Seashore" – Composer C Gabarain

*** COMMISSION and BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

Please remember as you pray. . .

- We thank God that we see the rebel Tigrayan forces in Northern Ethiopia handing over heavy weapons formerly used in the brutal civil war and in compliance with the peace agreement. We pray for continued peace in that part of the world.
- Mr Oliver Vedecastele, a Belgian Aid worker based in Iran, has been sentenced to 40 years in prison and 74 lashes. He was convicted of espionage against Iran, collaboration with the US government, smuggling foreign currency and money laundering. All of the charges he has denied. Iran has demanded a 'prisoner exchange' plan with Belgium for one of their nationals in exchange for his life. Pray for his safety.
- According to Human Rights Activists' News Agency (HRANA), at least 519 protesters – including – 69 children have been killed and 19,300 arrested. In addition, thousands have been imprisoned since the beginning of the protests in Iran. May God have mercy on all, offer protection, and comfort those whose family members have been taken.
- More than 50,000 people are facing the threat of eviction from land they have occupied for decades in the Indian state of Uttarakhand. The Courts have stayed off the demolition of over 4000 homes, stating the need to find a workable solution before anyone is moved, but the occupants have no guarantee of how long this will last. Indeed we pray that a real workable solution can be found for all in this situation.
- Stretching for more than 500km along the centre of Luzon, Philippines, the Sierra Madre is sometimes known as the backbone of Luzon. The mountain range is a protective barrier from the multiple storms and typhoons affecting the area. And the forests on her slopes hold the fragile earth together. Unfortunately, a recent study has shown that 90% of the original rainforest is now gone due to illegal logging, mining and quarrying in the region. Local individuals are striving to replant trees and other forms of vegetation to fill the gaps left by the loggers. May the government take this matter seriously and look towards replenishing what has been removed.
- China has reopened its borders to international visitors for the first time since it imposed travel restrictions in March 2020. Many were separated from family and friends during these years of closure. In this time leading up to the Lunar New Year, many reunions have been planned. With the more significant movement of people, we pray for their safety and good practice of preventative measures.

- The number of new cases of Covid continues to be high, reaching almost 9,500 this past week. Let us not forget to pray for all dealing with this virus, whether as a patient, carer, researcher, or frontline worker. May God comfort those who have lost loved ones and strengthen those dealing with the virus daily.
- On Tuesday, the Hong Kong government approved unfreezing the minimum wage taking it to HK\$40 per hour, a HK\$2.5 increase. Legislator Lam Chun-sing, chair of the Federation of Hong Kong and Kowloon Labour Unions, said that even though the increase was higher than inflation, grassroots workers continue to struggle to maintain their living standards and proposed a rise to HK\$46. With the ever-widening economic gap between the rich and the poor, we pray that the voices of those in need are listened to and that further action is taken to increase the minimum wage.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

- We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

We are **thankful** for:

- the ancient cultures and religions that have been sustained in this area for millennia
- those who continue to pursue peace in the midst of ethnic strife and terrorism
- the faithfulness of Muslims in expressing their faith and working with others
- Christians who practice their faith even when they are a small, often discriminated minority.

We **pray** for:

- women and others in these countries who are deprived of basic freedoms and human dignity
- those who misuse or exploit religious identity for extremist political ends
- the wise use of the benefits of oil and other natural resources for the sake of all
- the emergence of stable democratic societies based on the rule of law, social justice, and respect for religious and other freedoms.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Welcome to all who join our worship in church and through Facebook live streaming. Thank you, Pastor Phyllis, 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
 Friday - Bible Study – online at 10:30 am
 Junior Choir at 4:30 pm

Today - 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>

Tuesday 17 January 2023

We hope you can join the English Worship service for the Week of Prayer for
 Christian Unity. The details are as follows:

Date: 17 January 2023 (Tue) Time: 8:00 pm
 Venue: HKSKH All Saints' Cathedral (11 Pak Po St, Mong Kok)
 Theme: "Do good; seek justice" (Isaiah 1:17)
 Speaker: Fr. Joseph Tan (Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong)

18 – 25 January - Week of Prayer 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 15 January	NEXT WEEK 22 January
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Phyllis Wong	Aimé Girimana
Pianist:	Jessica Tso	Joshua Pang
Lector:	Harry Chan	Paul Wong
Intercessory Prayers:	Katie Ho	Hope Antone
Family Talk:	Chan Beng Seng	Lydia Catedral
Greeter:	Kevin Ng, Chris Law	Peter Youngblood, Mary Adesina
Offering Rota:	Journaliz Badon Rachel Wangari	Daddy Moussounda Thapa Garung
Counting Rota	Chan Beng Seng Judy Chan	Chan Beng Seng Gabi Baumgartner
Sunday School	Jailyn Tomitis	Jailyn Tomitis
I.T. Team:	Jen Pang	Tong Chong Sze

Freewill offering last week : HK\$ 3,360-
 Promissory offering last week: HK\$4,000-