

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



Third Sunday After the Epiphany
22 January 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(* : Congregation stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Lead Me Lord" – Composer: S S Wesley

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** "Let Us Sing to the God of Salvation" – Music: N L Warren Lyrics: R T Bewes

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** "Be Not Afraid"

– Composer: Bob Dufford

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Isaiah 9: 1 - 4 (O.T.)

Matthew 4: 12 – 22 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

*** HYMN** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" – Composer: attr. Simon K. Marak

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "The Light Has Come"

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MISSION MOMENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "O Lord Hear Our Prayer"

– Music: Taizé Community

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* HYMN “Shine Jesus Shine” – Composer: Graham Kendrick

* COMMISSION and BLESSING

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

Please remember as you pray. . .

- The international charity Oxfam has called for more taxes on the rich as the World Economic Forum gathers for its annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. As the rich grow richer and are rewarded for their wealth, so too do the problems of the poor grow greater.
- Many provinces in Afghanistan have seen exceptionally cold temperatures in the last two weeks, with temperatures dropping as low as -21 degrees Celsius. As a result, many are dying from cold and hunger as the country's new Taliban rulers have yet to revive the economy and are still facing international isolation. Pray that there can be a softening that will allow humanitarian aid to break through the political barriers.
- The people of Nepal mourn the loss of 72 souls in the recent Nepali plane crash. Rescuers try in vain to find all the missing passengers, but the terrain surrounding the site and the weather conditions have made it very difficult. Some of the victims were known to the Hong Kong Nepali community and church. May the love and peace of God descend on all who have lost loved ones and strengthen those with the task of recovery and investigations.
- Families of some 200 Indonesian children who died after consuming a tainted cough syrup have demanded restitution at an Indonesian court, which has started hearing their class-action lawsuit against government agencies and pharmaceutical companies. Their deaths have been linked with similar cases in Gambia and Uzbekistan. Though no court action will return their loved ones to them, we pray for justice to be upheld and that this will stop this from happening again.
- The government in Hong Kong says hundreds of violations have been uncovered since new regulations on sub-divided flats came into force a year ago. It has prosecuted one landlord and is calling on more tenants to come forward with their complaints; only with their testimony will they charge more violaters. We pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen those affected to stand up and shout out and that the system will provide adequate protection.
- On Wednesday, Hong Kong welcomed its first overseas cruise tourists in three years. Officials hail the return as a sign that the SAR is still firmly on the tourist map and promise that more vessels will arrive in the months ahead. May this be the first of many as the industry struggles to recover from the pandemic.

- The number of Covid cases recorded in Hong Kong is decreasing though the number of fatalities remains high. We continue to pray for all struggling with the illness. We particularly remember those in the hospital or isolated from their loved ones during Lunar New Year.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

- We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Cyprus, Greece and Turkey.

We are **thankful** for:

- the 2,000-year presence and witness of the church in Asia Minor (now Turkey, Cyprus, and Greece) – the region in which St Paul and other apostles first planted the seeds of the Christian faith – and for how Greek culture influenced the early church
- the Church Fathers who came from this area, along with many men and women who were Christian martyrs, and where seven ecumenical councils were convened
- the pioneering work of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in quest of Christian unity and for protection of the environment
- those who have reached out to assist people who have fled to, and through these lands.

We **pray** for:

- the healing of memories and wounds inflicted by early 20th century genocides of Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian communities, and for current tensions in these lands
- enhanced respect for all minority groups and their claims
- those who work for justice and reconciliation
- the people who struggle because of economic and political crises in these countries
- more stable democratic governments that further the good of all.

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, Stephanie, Joy Babasa, 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, Brother Aimé, for sharing the Word of God with us this day and many congratulations on your recent Hong Kong Red Cross Humanity Award in recognition of your outstanding humanitarian contribution to the community!

Happy New Year of the Rabbit!

The rabbit symbolises longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese culture. Thus, 2023 is to be a year of hope. We pray for God's blessings for all.



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 – No Bible Study this week
Junior Choir at 4:30 pm

Next Sunday 29 January

The Care and Fellowship Committee will host a Lunar New Year Hot Pot gathering here in church following the morning worship.

Please register using the link or click on the QR code.

<https://forms.gle/dYjf4pG2QLGf1WvU6>



Christian Education Workshop – 11 February

The 2nd workshop on Sexuality and Spirituality will be held on Saturday, 11 February 7 PM in the upper fellowship hall. This session will be focused on sexuality in the Bible, exploring the expression of physical love in the Old and New Testaments, and its connection to Jewish and Christian spirituality and ethics. All are invited to attend. Registration details will follow.

MOE Movie Sunday – 26 February

Date for your diary: Movie Sunday, 26 February after the morning worship. A video documentary of theologian Henri Nouwen will be screened. More details will be posted at a later date.

	TODAY 22 January	NEXT WEEK 29 January
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Aimé Girimana	Maggie Mathieson
Pianist:	Joshua Pang	Eva Kwan
Lector:	Paul Wong	Blessing Witness Lukuba
Intercessory Prayers:	Hope Antone	Ramon Bultron
Family Talk:	Lydia Cathedral	No Family Talk
Greeter:	Peter Youngblood Mary Adesina	Lucy Lim Jenet Onwufuju
Offering Rota:	Daddy Moussounda Thapa Garung	Kevin Ng Susan Babasa
Counting Rota	Chan Beng Seng Gabi Baumgartner	Doris Lee Harry Chan
Sunday School	Jailyn Tomitis	Jailyn Tomitis
I.T. Team:	Tong Chong Sze	Lo Yuk Fai

Freewill offering last week : HK\$3,804 -
Promissory offering last week: HK\$1,900-