

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



First Sunday in Lent
26 February 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(* : Congregation stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Be Still and Know" – Anon

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

* **HYMN** "Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"

– Music: Old 12th ; Lyrics: T.H.Cain

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND "Kyrie" (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.

UCCP SINGERS "Forward by Faith"

– Composer: Cindy Berry

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 32 (O.T.)

Matthew 4:1-11 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

* **HYMN** "You Are My Hiding Place"

– Composer: Michael Ledner

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "Reclaiming Wilderness"

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MISSION MOMENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "Ubi Caritas"

– Music: Taizé Community

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** "Be Thou My Vision" Music: Trad; Lyrics: tr. Mary Elizabeth Byrne

* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

Please remember as you pray. . .

- 24 February 2022 was the day Russian forces attacked Ukraine. One year on, and it seems very little has changed. Military and civilian fatalities continue to grow, as do the numbers of displaced people. We pray for peace, healing and true reconciliation.
- U.S. President Joe Biden's administration has released a plan that will make it harder for migrants from South America to claim asylum once Covid border controls lift in May. It would require adult asylum seekers to use an app to book a meeting with US officials or first claim asylum in another country before reaching the US. Failure to comply would make migrants ineligible if they make it to the border. We pray that hearts will be touched by the plight of those reaching out for a new beginning and life and that such plans will be more compassionate.
- The Brazilian State of San Paulo is suffering the effects of heavy rains, which have triggered landslides and severe flooding, destroying the livelihoods of many. It is thought that at least 36 people have lost their lives. May God comfort those who mourn and strengthen all to recover from this natural disaster.
- On Wednesday, the United Nations Development Programme proposed reducing the debt of 52 low and middle-income countries, two days before G20 finance ministers meet in India. This is good news indeed, and we pray it be so.
- At least five people have died, and fifty others are missing after a coal mine collapsed in Alxa League, Inner Mongolia region. Rescue teams have responded and are searching for survivors from the collapse. Pray for those who have lost their loved ones and those waiting for news. Pray also for the success of the rescue teams.
- A South Korean court delivered a landmark ruling on Tuesday recognising the rights of a same-sex couple for the first time, with activists hailing the verdict as a major victory for LGBTQ rights in the country. The case in question will now go to the Supreme Court. Justice for all!

- Months later, after thousands protested against the zero-Covid policy on the streets of China, protestors are being rounded up and held in police custody. Many of the arrests have been made quietly. May God protect these people who were brave enough to stand against the system and keep them and their families safe.
- In Hong Kong, Financial Secretary Paul Chan began delivering his 2023 budget in the Legislative Council on Wednesday morning, the first under Chief Executive John Lee's administration. May this be a fair budget with consideration for all in our society.
- The court cases of the 47 pro-democrats continue, with the courts opening up additional rooms for viewing through live streaming. Let us continue to pray for a fair and just trial for all.
- We continue our prayers of thanks as we see the number of new Covid cases drop. May the Lord continually strengthen those sick and those who care for them.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

- We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Give thanks for:

- the important roles political leaders here have played in European integration.
- how people here have led in creative solutions to environmental, economic, and cultural challenges.
- how churches here have overcome barriers and reached out to assure a good life for all.
- the ecumenical contributions that have come from this area, and their continuing support.

Pray for:

- overcoming cultural, linguistic and political barriers and suspicions that remain divisive.
- the haunting legacies of colonization and quests for economic gain.
- immigrants who are alienated or marginalized in these societies.
- greater tolerance and solidarity with all in these societies and around the world.

For the Congregation

- We pray for Alex Melwani, Sunita Suna and Helen Lee's mothers, Mrs Samuel, Anjenette, Hend, Jeanette Lee, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Chui, Ana and Ramon Bultron, Lucy Lim, Mercy, Stephanie, Joy Babasa, and Jackie Tse. We remember those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.
- We remember the family of Revd. Dr John Le Mond. John, an old friend of KUC, passed away last Sunday morning in the U.S. We also remember the family of Alex Smith, a former member of KUC and Head Mistress and founder

of Sunnyside Kindergarten, who passed away last week in the UK. We pray for the Lord's comfort for both families at this time of great loss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today welcome to all who join our worship in church and through Facebook live streaming. Thank you, Pastor Phyllis, for sharing the Word this morning.

This Week's Programs in Church

- Sunday - MOE Movie Sunday
- Tuesday - Peace Making Fellowship Hike at Shing Mun Reservoir. Gathering time at KUC at 9:30 am
- Wednesday - Harambe at 6 pm
- Friday - Bible Study – Online at 10:30 am
Junior Choir at 5:00 pm

Today, MOE Movie Sunday

Movie Sunday after the morning worship. A video documentary of theologian Henri Nouwen will be screened. Time: 1:30 – 3:00 pm in the Upper Fellowship Hall.

Dates For Your Diary

Taize Prayer and Common Chants

Tuesday, 7 March, in KUC. Prayer starts at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to join!

Lectio Divina

Join us for our monthly practice of Lectio Divina on Wednesday, 8 March, from 8:00 pm 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.

	TODAY 26 February	NEXT WEEK 5 March
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Phyllis Wong	Judy Chan
Pianist:	Eva Kwan	Katie Ho
Lector:	David Onwufuju	Holly Chui
Intercessory Prayers:	Gabi Baumgartner	Robert Lam
Family Talk:	Lydia Catedral	Chan Beng Seng
Greeter:	Peter Youngblood Rachel Wangari	Paul Wong Susan Babasa
Offering Rota:	Susan Babasa Emmanuel Adesina	Kevin Ng Ching So
Counting Rota	Paul Wong Ramon Bultron	Jennifer Chan Gabi Baumgartner
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Tong Chong Sze	Venus Cheng
Freewill offering last week : HK\$7,288- Promissory offering last week: HK\$1,200- Welfare Fund: HK\$5,000-		