

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



Second Sunday in Lent
5 March 2023
Communion Sunday
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation stands)

APPROACH

LITANY FOR A PEOPLE WITHOUT A MASK MANDATE -John Mok Lamme

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

* **HYMN** "The Living God Be Praised" –Music: Trad.; Lyrics: Daniel ben Judah

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 of Gentleness" –Composer: James K Manley

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Genesis 12:1-4a (O.T.)

John 3:1-17 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

SERMON "Born"

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL RESPOND "Ubi Caritas"

– Music: Taizé Community

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

HYMN “A Place at the Table” – Music: C Gibson; Lyrics: S E Murray

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

* **HYMN** “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross.”

– Music: W H Doane; Lyrics: F G Crosby

* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

Please remember as you pray. . .

- In the recent G20 summit meeting, finance chiefs of many of the world's largest economies strongly condemned Moscow for its war on Ukraine. However, only China and Russia themselves declined to sign a joint statement. As hosts, India was reluctant to raise the issue, but Western nations insisted they could not back any outcome that did not include a condemnation. The lack of consensus among G20 members meant that India resorted to giving a "chair's summary and outcome document", summing up the two days of talks and noted disagreements. The war in Ukraine, one year on, continues to affect all aspects of life, not only in the countries themselves but those countries that are dependent on Ukraine and Russia for food and fuel supplies etc. It is good that voices were speaking out for the unjust war and all the war has brought or has taken. Let us continue to pray for peace throughout the world.
- New York City has agreed to award \$21,500 each to over 300 people allegedly boxed in and beaten by police during a racial justice protest in 2020. If approved, the deal will become one of the largest amounts ever awarded per person in a mass arrest case. Though money will not change what has happened, we thank God it will help those traumatised by the events of that day, and with this action, we can see people's voices are heard and the issue addressed at the highest level.
- Police in Italy have arrested three people on suspicion of people-smuggling following the deaths of at least 67 migrants in a shipwreck off the country's southern coast on Sunday. The vessel was thought to be carrying 200 people when it hit rocks near Cortrone. At this point, rescuers can account for 147 people. We pray for those who have lost their lives, those rescued and those not yet accounted for. We pray that provisions will be made for the survivors and that justice is served.

- We remember in prayer those who lost their lives in Tuesday night's train collision in Greece. At least 43 people died in the accident. We pray for God's comfort for those grieving and healing for those in the hospital.
- Dozens of girls from 26 schools in Iran are reportedly being treated for poisoning after another wave of toxic gas attacks. This has been happening since November of last year. Many suspect this is a tactic to force girls' schools to close. Others fear the attacks are also made against those girls who have participated in recent anti-government protests. Meanwhile, government officials lay the blame on 'mercenary groups.' We continue to pray for the well-being of all females in Iran, young and old.
- While some of us revel in being mask free, a local expert has warned that a flu outbreak in Hong Kong is more likely now that we are no longer obliged to wear masks in public. Particular concern and attention are given to younger children as they have not developed immunity to the flu virus. This is because we have been wearing masks, and Hong Kong has almost been 'flu free' for the last three years. The expert advises parents to have their children vaccinated. We pray that the Hong Kong medical system can cope with the possibility of parents taking this advice and seeking vaccines for their children.
- The Society for Community Organisation called on the government to extend and expand a trial scheme offering monthly cash handouts to people waiting for public housing for three years or more. They also highlighted that only some in need qualify for the scheme. One group not eligible are those who are single and not elderly. May the call of the people in need be answered fairly and justly.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

- We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Ireland, United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

We give thanks for:

- the many distinct cultures in these islands and how literature, music, dance, and other traditions rooted here, have enriched people around the world
- the economic and other aid that consistently have come from the area to those in the world who are most in need
- the many who have emigrated to other parts of the world, and in turn, the immigrants from these lands who are now turning the United Kingdom and Ireland into increasingly multi-ethnic, multireligious societies
- the positive contributions Great Britain has made in world history and that church leaders have played in the ecumenical and interfaith movements.

We pray for:

- the healing of scars and memories that linger after times of colonization
- overcoming barriers so that all might experience welcome as these countries become more genuinely multi-ethnic and multi-faith
- resolving differences and political tensions over how Great Britain should relate to the rest of Europe
- dealing with the challenges of increasing secularism and the emergence of new ways of expressing religion and spirituality.

For the Congregation

- We pray for the mothers of Alex Melwani, Helen Lee, and Sunita Suna, for Mrs Samuel, Anjenette, Habib, Hend, Jeanette Lee, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Chui, Ana and 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.
- We hold the Cathedral family in prayer as they bid their earthly farewells to Lydia's Grandmother, who passed away last week. May God comfort and sustain them in this time of loss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today welcome to all who join our worship in church and through Facebook live streaming. We thank Judy Chan for sharing the Word this morning.

This Week's Programs in Church

Tuesday - Peace Making Fellowship at 10 am, in Number 2 Jordan Road
 Wednesday - Harambe at 6 pm
 Friday - Bible Study – Online at 10:30 am
 Junior Choir at 5:00 pm

Dates For Your Diary

Taizé Prayer and Common Chants

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

Lectio Divina – This month's session is cancelled.

	TODAY 5 March	NEXT WEEK 12 March
Liturgist/Celebrant	Maggie Mathieson/ Phyllis Wong	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Judy Chan	Hope Antone
Pianist:	Katie Ho	Eva Kwan
Lector:	Holly Chui	Paul Lucas
Intercessory Prayers:	Robert Lam	Emmanuel Adesina
Family Talk:	Chan Beng Seng	Mayson Fung
Greeter:	Paul Wong Susan Babasa	Edwina Antonio Angeline Onwufuju
Offering Rota:	Kevin Ng Ching So	Guy Syrette Kulwinder Kaur
Counting Rota	Jennifer Chan Chan Beng Seng	Edwina Antonio Ramon Bultron
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina	Jailyn Tomitis Gabi Baumgartner
I.T. Team:	Jen Pang	Lo Yuk Fai

Freewill offering last week : HK\$4,692.5-
 Promissory offering last week: HK\$8,400-
 Retiring Offering: HK\$5,156-