

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 in Lent
12 March 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(* : Congregation stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "As the Deer" – Composer: Martin Nystrom

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** "Let Us Sing to the God of Salvation" – Music: Trad; Lyrics: Richard Bewes

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND "Change Our Hearts" – Composer: Eddie Espinosa

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.
And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

SCRIPTURE READING

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

Exodus 17: 1-7 (O.T.)
John 4: 5- 42 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.
And bear much fruit for Your glory.

*** HYMN** "Have You Heard the Raindrops" – Composer: Christian Strover

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "To Thirst"

SERMON HYMN “Fill My Cup, Lord”

– Composer: Richard Blanchard

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND “Ubi Caritas”

– Music: Taizé Community

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

*** HYMN “Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer”** – Composer: William Williams

*** COMMISSION and BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

Please remember as you pray. . .

- Russia has launched missiles at targets across Ukraine, targeting the infrastructure of cities in the country’s North, West and South. Again, buildings were hit, and there was further damage to the power grid. Temperatures remain very low; many lack the power to cook or heat the shelters in which they live. May the Lord protect and keep them.
- The United Kingdom has announced the 'Illegal Migration Bill'. This new bill will make it increasingly difficult for anyone seeking asylum in the county. Those arriving without legal documents will be detained and have 28 days to seek judicial review. The detained will be removed to a third 'safe' country if unsuccessful. Under 18's or those medically unfit would be able to delay removal. Those being removed from the country would be blocked from returning to the UK and would not be eligible for citizenship. A cap has been set on the number of refugees they will settle through legal routes. This is a harsh bill for the many seeking asylum in that land. Lord, protect those in this process and soften the hearts of the processors.
- Despite all that the people of Turkey have been facing this last month, on 8 March, International Women's day, thousands of women defied a ban on protests and took to the streets of Istanbul. The protest was in response to a report that stated men had killed more than 600 women since 2021, mainly in the home. Their voices ring out not only for the victims of domestic violence in Turkey but for all victims everywhere.

- Indian firefighters are trying to put out a fire at a waste plant, leading to a thick toxic smoke covering many areas in Kochi city in Kerala state. The smoke threatens the health of those in the area, and the conditions have closed down several schools. Locals have appealed to authorities to take action, but nothing has been done. Disposing of waste is a huge problem that brings many other issues affecting health and well-being. Pray that time and energy will be given to find a solution.
- Scientists have presented a new way of clearing and storing carbon dioxide from the air in the sea. The new method involves transforming the warming gas into bicarbonate of soda. This can be converted and stored safely and cheaply in seawater. As we struggle to maintain this incredible planet in which we live, we pray such methods will help in that struggle to reclaim the environment.
- Labour Unionists have said the need for childcare services in Hong Kong is forcing many mothers to stay at home and not take up positions in the workplace. Demands of employers and the time schedules of most school days make it impossible for those mothers to return to the workplace. The Financial Secretary, Paul Chan, announced in his budget last month that money is allocated to strengthen support for women's development. We pray solutions will be found and implemented to help women to return to the workplace.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

- We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

We are **thankful** for:

- the spectacular beauty of the changing landscape of forests, lakes, mountains and glaciers
- churches that are advocating and implementing measures to redress climate change that is dramatic here and throughout the world
- those who have opened their doors and hearts to people migrating to these lands
- the support for justice, peace and interfaith work that comes from these countries.

We **pray** for:

- the poor and marginalized who struggle in these rich countries
- personal and investment practices that support environmental sustainability
- growing openness to becoming more multi-ethnic, multi-faith societies
- those who are affluent that they will contribute to making the world and their societies more just for all.
- a Church that is prepared to be a voice in the struggle for indigenous people rights.

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, Joy Babasa, Lilly Yuen and Jackie Tse. 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. We thank Hope Antone for sharing the Word this morning.

This Week's Programs in Church

- Sunday - Council Meeting at 12:30 pm in Upper Fellowship Hall
 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

Date For Your Diary

Sunday 19 March, 1:30 – 3:00 pm – “Image and Word” PowerPoint Workshop

Due to unforeseen circumstances the 'Image and Word' PowerPoint Workshop on 19 March has been cancelled. The Worship Advisory Group hopes to reschedule at a future date. Thanks for your support.

| | TODAY 12 March | NEXT WEEK 19 March |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Liturgist: | Maggie Mathieson | Maggie Mathieson |
| Preacher: | Hope Antone | Aimé Girimana |
| Pianist: | Eva Kwan | Jessica Tso |
| Lector: | Paul Lucas | Paul Wong |
| Intercessory Prayers: | Emmanuel Adesina | Tory Caplan |
| Family Talk: | Mayson Fung | Maggie Mathieson |
| Greeter: | Edwina Antonio Angeline Onwufuju | Kevin Ng Blessing |
| Offering Rota: | Guy Syrette Kulwinder Kaur | Caden Lam Kulwinder Kaur |
| Counting Rota | Edwina Antonio Ramon Bultron | Doris Lee Sunita Suna |
| Sunday School Leaders: | Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina | Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina |
| I.T. Team: | Lo Yuk Fai | Venus Cheng |
| Freewill offering last week : HK\$4,792 - Promissory offering last week: HK\$6,720 - Retiring Offering: HK\$1,764 - | | |