

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter
14 May 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Holy Spirit Come"

– Composer: T Chan

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

* **HYMN** "Now Thank We All Our God"

- Music: J Cruger; Words: M Rinkart

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND "Kyrie Eleison" (Lord, have mercy)

– Music: Trad Orthodox

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

HYMN "Oh Sing to the Lord" –Music and Words: Trad. Folk translated G M Cartford

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 66: 8-20 (O.T.)

John 14: 15-21 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

* **HYMN** "Spirit Song"

– Composer: J Wimber

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "He'll Bring You Out – Our Transformed Lives in the Holy Spirit"

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND “Bless The Lord”

– Taizé Community

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** “God in Your Grace”

– Music: P Harling; Words: S E Murray

* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

- The United States faces a border crisis as the policy known as Title 42 ends. The policy allowed authorities to swiftly expel migrants at the US land border in response to the Covid emergency. As a result, a record number of migrants are poisoning themselves for what might happen next. Tens of thousands of migrants wait, hopefully in what they think are safe places. The authorities also fear the sheer numbers of those seeking entry and those seeking humanitarian asylum breaching the border, overwhelming those posted on site. We pray this change will have the least disturbance and all will be treated fairly and justly.
- Conflicts between Israel and Palestine continue to intensify daily, increasing the number of fatalities and casualties, raising fears on both sides of the fighting. We have a responsibility to pray for peace in the world. Help us, Lord, to pray for this world you have given us that we may live together as Your children.
- African countries continue to be affected by severe flooding in recent weeks. Today we remember the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Over 400 people in the country have lost their lives and all they owned. May God receive their souls and comfort those left behind. Yet amidst all the confusion and destruction caused by the flooding, two babies have been found alive, floating on debris in the waters of Lake Kivu. Thanks be to God for this band of protection afforded to these infants and their families.
- Sixty people have been killed in ethnic clashes in the Indian state of Manipur. Homes, vehicles, churches and temples are the most likely targets of unruly mob violence, causing the displacement of tens of thousands and over 200 injured. Let each person's voice be heard and justice served.
- Australian journalist Cheng Lei is detained in a Chinese prison. She has been there for over 1000 days; the charges against her are unknown, and she has not been sentenced. Access has yet to be granted to those campaigning on her behalf, and she has been without legal representation. May she and others like her find the strength and courage to face all this has brought to her and her family.
- Lawmakers in Hong Kong have passed a bill requiring foreign lawyers to get the Chief Executive's approval before taking part in National Security cases in Hong Kong. However, the National People's Congress Standing Committee said it was up to Hong Kong to decide on such matters. Let us hope this will be practised and implemented case by case.
- The Labour Department announced on Monday that a new "Heat Stress at Work" warning system would operate using a colour coding alert system. Those representing the construction companies have welcomed the concept but fear the new system will create confusion in the workplace. As each sector in the workplace is graded differently, they are calling for a more straightforward approach which would state that all workers would stop

work should the temperature reach a certain level. With this welcome move from the Labour Department, it is hoped that those involved can discuss and agree upon a final solution.

- **For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal.

We are **thankful** for:

- the peoples of these nations – the diversity of their cultures, languages, and art, and their resilience
- the breath-taking beauty of these lands – the mountains in all their grandeur, overflowing rivers and green paddy fields
- all those who work for the churches and their institutions, especially in places where natural disasters strike.

We **pray** for:

- efforts of governments and others to build up these nations' economies
- those who have lost families and homes in earthquakes and other disasters as they struggle to rebuild their lives, homes and infrastructure
- those who contribute to religious harmony and advocate for the minority voice of Christians, especially amid religious and ethnic tensions
- religious and government leaders that will make it possible for all peoples to live in justice, peace, and harmony.
- these small nations which depend on other countries and are often threatened by the interests of their bigger neighbours.

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.
- Please pray for our sister Dr Vivian Lee and the medical team on their mission trip to serve the people of Madagascar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today a warm welcome to all who join our worship in church and through Facebook live streaming. We welcome Terri Appel from Union Church Hong Kong to our pulpit this morning. Thank you, Terri, for sharing the Word of God with us this morning.

Our Preacher Today:

Terri Appel arrived in Hong Kong in 1997 from New York City with her husband, Nick. After joining Union Church in 1998, they jumped right in, using their gifts in various ministries such as Small Groups, Hospitality, Missions (local and international), Prayer, the "Walk to Emmaus" inter-church ministry, Worship and Prison ministries. She has served twice on the Deacons' Court and is Clerk of the Court. She is currently the Executive Director of Generations Christian Education, operating three Christian schools in HK. She is also the Mom of two adult children - Chris and Olivia - both living in the USA. Terri loves to encourage people to use their unique and valuable, God-given gifts and talents for the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She finds true joy in seeing God's people released to do what Abba-God created them to do for His glory!

This Week's Programs in Church

- Sunday - Early Morning Bible Study at 9 am Upper Fellowship Hall
 Human Café – Somatic Workshop at 11:45 am in the Conference Room
- Tuesday - Peace Making Fellowship at 10 am in number 2 Jordan Road
- Wednesday - Harambe Choir at 6:00 pm
- Friday - Junior Choir at 5:00 pm

Pastor Phyllis

Our Pastor will be on Annual leave from Monday, 15 May, to 16 June. She will be visiting family in the UK and Canada. We wish her a blessed time of reunions and celebrations. Should you have any pastoral needs, please get in touch with Pastor Maggie or the Church office.

Human Café in KUC - "Your body is a temple where the Holy Spirit lives." 1 Cor:19

Presented by the Christian Education Committee and the Peacemaking Body

Please consider joining 1 or 2 or all three sessions as you contemplate the idea of the body as a temple of GOD through some simple somatic-based practices.

Dates for sessions: 14/5, 21/5 and 2 July

Time: 11:45 – 12:45

Venue: Conference Room KUC

Max number of participants: 15 pax

Please note there is no registration needed for this programme; it will be on a first come basis for participants. Also, please note **'NO ENTRY AFTER 12 NOON'**.

Art Jam in KUC!

Come and Join the fun as we explore Art with Ms Carmen Wong. Carmen will help us as we think and create an image that depicts 'What KUC means to me!'

Date: Sunday 21 May

Time: 1:30 pm

Venue: Upper Fellowship Hall

	TODAY 14 May	NEXT WEEK 21 May
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Katie Ho
Preacher:	Terri Appel	Maggie Mathieson
Pianist:	Jessica Tso	Joshua Pang
Lector:	Carol Yuen	Guy Syrett
Intercessory Prayers:	Robert Lam	Tory Caplan
Family Talk:	Chan Beng Seng	Mayson Fung
Greeter:	Edwina Antonio Ana Bultron	Peter YoungBlood Favour Mmaduabuchukwu
Offering Rota:	Ching So Caden Lam	Anjette Bolanos Kulwinder Kaur
Counting Rota	Edwina Antonio Ramon Bultron	Paul Wong Sunita Suna
Sunday School Leaders:	Gabi Baumgartner Mary Adesina	Amber Tong Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur
Freewill offering last week : HK\$13,912.50 - Promissory offering last week: HK\$1,400- Welfare Fund: HK\$5,000 - Organic Farm: HK\$270.60-		