

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



Seventh Sunday of Easter
21 May 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Spirit of the Living God" – Composer: D Iverson

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

* **HYMN** "How Great is Our God" and "The Heart of Worship"

- Composers: Tomlin, Cash & Reeves / Redman

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 "Great is Your Faithfulness"

–Music: W Runyan; Words: T Chisholm

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

John 17: 1 - 11 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

* **HYMN** "He is Exalted"

– Composer: T Paris

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "One"

* **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** "Walls that Divide"

– Music: R Klusmeier ; Words: W Farquharson

* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

- In the first few days since the controversial border policy known as Title 42 expired, the United States Border Patrol has sent approximately 2,400 people back to Mexico, including Cubans, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans. As people seek that chance at the borders, we continue to pray that all voices will be heard before any repatriation is carried out.
- The number of executions recorded globally in 2022 was the highest in five years, as several Middle Eastern states ramped up their use of the death penalty, as reported by Amnesty International. It has been recorded that 883 people are known to have been put to death; this figure does not include China as data is classified. The taking of a life should never be the answer to situations. Pray that the Lord softens the hearts and minds of those in governance to end such practices.
- Until now, how many lives have been lost in the recent Cyclone Mocha, which hit Myanmar's Rakhine State and parts of Chin State, is uncertain. However, a United Nations spokesperson has reported that nearly 3.2 million people were likely to have humanitarian needs due to the storm. In addition, about 95% of the shelters in the Rohingya camp of Thet Kae Pyin have been obliterated. May God strengthen those struggling to find loved ones and pray that the help needed can be given to all people.
- Falling birth rates are a significant concern for some of Asia's biggest economies. As a result, governments in the region are spending hundreds of billions of dollars trying to reverse the trend they introduced. We pray that we can learn from this experience of trying to 'be god'. Then, with encouragement and the absence of pressure from authorities, more couples will be blessed with children.
- A Chinese fishing vessel carrying 39 crew members capsized in the Indian Ocean. International Search and Rescue teams have been deployed to the area the ship capsized, with units from Australia, China, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The remains of two crew members have been retrieved from the ocean. As the search continues, may the families of those waiting for news of their loved ones be comforted with the peace and love of God.
- Our Primary Four students in Hong Kong came second in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study in 2021 in dozens of countries and territories. It was recorded that 70% of places suffered a decline in scores amid the pandemic. We congratulate these young people for their achievements and remember those who have not fared so well during that time.

- **For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in the Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles.

We are thankful for:

- the spectacular scenery, exotic plants, rare animals and abundant sea life that flourish in the region
- how people who are ethnically and religiously diverse have long lived together
- the economic developments that have lifted some out of poverty
- the vital evangelism, social and public witness of churches, and how the churches relate to people of other faiths.

We pray for:

- the fragile environment and the unique plants, animals and lands that they will be protected, especially as the sea rises
- tourism and other economic developments that they will not threaten, but enhance life for all the people in these countries
- churches, that they will grow through evangelistic efforts and in their work with those of other faiths
- Christians to be bolder in their public witness for justice and reconciliation, especially in times of political turmoil.

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 and Jackie Tse. We remember those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.
- We remember with thanksgiving the life of Mrs Lilly Yuen. Mrs Yuen served here in Kowloon Union Church with her husband for many years. They cared for the building and the all people who came within these walls. Mrs Yuen passed away peacefully in a hospital in New York. Pray for her daughter and granddaughter as they adjust to life without her.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today a warm welcome to all who join our worship in church and through Facebook live streaming. Please join us for coffee in the Lower Fellowship Hall after worship.

This Week's Programs in Church

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| Sunday | - Early Morning Bible Study at 9 am Upper Fellowship Hall
Human Café – Somatic Workshop at 11:45 am in the Upper Fellowship Hall
Council Meeting at 1:30 pm in the Upper Fellowship Hall
Art Jam at 1:30 pm in the Lower Fellowship Hall |
| 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 a session or two 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: Upper Fellowship Hall

Max number of participants: 15 pax

Please note entry will be given on a first come basis for the 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: Lower Fellowship Hall

	TODAY 21 May	NEXT WEEK 28 May
Liturgist:	Katie Ho	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Maggie Mathieson	Peter Youngblood
Pianist:	Joshua Pang	Eva Kwan
Lector:	Guy Syrett	Ronald Chui
Intercessory Prayers:	Tory Caplan	Emmanuel Adesina
Family Talk:	Mayson Fung	Lydia Cathedral
Greeter:	Peter Youngblood Favour Mmaduabuchukwu	Lucy Lim Anjenette Bolanos
Offering Rota:	Kulwinder Kaur Journaliz Badon	Daddy Susana Babasa
Counting Rota	Paul Wong Sunita Suna	Rey Asis Ramon Bultron
Sunday School Leaders:	Amber Tong Mary Adesina	Senior Sunday School Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur	Carl Cathedral Bervinder Kaur
Freewill offering last week : HK\$3,598 - Promissory offering last week: HK\$800-		