

Kowloon Union Church
"Where all are one"
4 Jordan Road, Kowloon
Tel. 2367-2585 • kuc@kuc.hk • www.kuc.hk
Secretary: Candy Lam
Minister: Maggie Mathieson
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong

Third Sunday After Pentecost
18 June 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation Stands)



APPROACH

- PREPARATION SONG** "Lead Me Lord" – Composer: S.S Wesley
*** CALL TO WORSHIP**
*** HYMN** "The Love of God" – Composer: F R Lehman
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 "Above All" – Composers: L. LeBlanc and P. Baloche

SCRIPTURE READING

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

Psalm 100 (O.T.)
Romans 5:1 – 8 (N.T.)
Matthew 9:35 – 10:8 (N.T.)

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

*** HYMN** "Here I Am, Wholly Available" – Composer: C. A . Bowater

FAMILY TALK

SERMON

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "O Lord Hear Our Prayer"

– Taizé Community

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"

– Music: C.V Taylor; Words: J Rowthorn

* **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

- After 40 days alone in the Amazon Jungle of Colombia, four missing children aged 13, 9, 5 and 1 have been found alive after surviving a plane crash and the loss of their mother. Knowledge passed down from their elders enabled the children to survive the ordeal. We pray this amazing account of survival will inspire those involved in search and rescue and bring hope to those whose loved ones are 'lost'.
- It is unknown how many people have died after a fishing boat capsized off the coast of southern Greece; numbers may be in the 100s. Some have estimated that the vessel was carrying up to 400 migrants. Before it capsized, contact made by the coastguard to help was refused. Photographs captured by the EU Border agency showed that no one on the vessel was wearing life jackets. May the Lord comfort the families of those who have perished in this tragedy and strengthen those left behind and those seeking the lost. We pray that Authorities realise there must be a better way to deal with the migration issue, especially when fear of repatriation stops people from accepting help when help is needed most.
- South Africa's lower house of Parliament has passed a contentious universal healthcare bill - described by the health minister as a "historic" moment for the country. The National Health Insurance (NHI) bill seeks to give South Africans "of all races, rich or poor and legal long-term residents" access to quality healthcare. This bill is in accordance with the constitution, adopted after Nelson Mandela was democratically elected in 1994. It has taken nearly three decades, but now it is happening. May this be a sign of encouragement for other nations striving for similar health care for all people.
- More than 100,000 people in India and Pakistan have been evacuated from the path of a fierce cyclone a day before its expected landfall. The cyclone is named Birparjoy, which means "disaster" in Bengali. The cyclone is expected first to hit the state of Gujarat. Pray for God's protection for the people of that land; may their actions work for their good.
- News shared in secret by North Korean citizens exposes the living disaster all there are facing due to the borders being closed more than three years ago. People are dying from starvation, many taking their own lives as the cost of living soars beyond all reach. Basic medical provisions are lacking as no new supplies can cross the borders into North Korea. We must pray for the needs of the people to be met and that those in governance will see that this is not how to govern the land.

- Thousands of people living near a Philippine volcano have taken shelter in evacuation centres. Officials warned on Sunday of health risks from ash and toxic gases spewing from the rumbling crater. Mt Mayon is located in the central province of Albay, about 330 KM southeast of Manila. Many risks are involved for those living close to a volcanic eruption, not only the land and its crop yields but the health of individuals and animals on the land. May the Lord have mercy on them.
- As PRIDE month continues in Hong Kong, we pray that the events being organised in our city will be not only times of celebration and get-togethers. May it also a time for people to be more informed about the LGBT plus community, enabling those not of that community to build a better understanding of those from the LGBT plus community.
- The government announced that Hong Kong is set to bring in as many as 20,000 non-local construction and transport workers to ease a workforce crunch in the sectors Tuesday. Priority is to be given to those positions needed to be filled in the public sector projects. An official said some workers could live at the Yuen Long Tam Mei Community Isolation Facility. We pray that all workers brought to Hong Kong will be treated fairly and justly with equal rights and wages.
- The Urban Renewal Authority has announced it would spruce up Mong Kok by introducing a nano park revitalisation pilot project, which could feature smart public fitness equipment. The project should be completed in four years. Hopefully, other city districts can be added to the project lists to enhance the living environments.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Malawi and Zambia.

We are **thankful** for:

- the biodiversity and natural wonders in these lands
- church leaders who have spoken out and countered sexual violence and human rights abuses
- those who are dealing with challenges of migrations within and to these countries
- stable governance and economies, and rising living standards for many people in recent years.

We **pray** for:

- greater food security for those most vulnerable, especially in times of climate change
- an end to political and economic corruption
- rising standards of living, particularly for those most poor
- an end to the exploitation of resources and of the people, especially those who are young and/or female.

For the Congregation

- We pray for Joshua, Cherry and baby Oliver, who left Hong Kong to settle in Australia. May their transition be smooth, and the Lord bless them in this new adventure in life.
- We pray for Alex Melwani, Sunita Suna and Helen Lee's mothers, Mrs Samuel, Hend, James Kim, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today a warm welcome to all who join our worship in church and through Facebook live streaming. Thank you Pastor Maggie for sharing the Word of God with us this morning. Please join us for coffee and tea in the Lower Fellowship Hall after worship.

Welcome back, Pastor Phyllis and welcome, Jensen!

Jensen Wong will intern at KUC for the next two months under the HK Christian Council's Summer Ecumenical Internship Program. He is entering his second year of a Master of Divinity Program at the Divinity School of Chung Chi College. Like many of us in church, Jensen loves music and food! May he enjoy and have a fruitful time with us!

This Week's Programs in Church

Sunday - The Great KUC Quiz at 1 pm in the Upper 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

Dates for your Diary

Next week Hong Kong will join the rest of the World Community as we celebrate and recognise World Refugee Week. Many events are happening in Hong Kong this week, including in KUC. During the free opening times of the church, there will be an art exhibition. Our sanctuary is open from **Monday to Friday, 9 am - 5 pm**. A member of the group who worked on the artwork will be stationed in the sanctuary and be able to share the stories behind the artwork.

Saturday we will continue with the exhibition in the morning and enjoy a concert in the afternoon. Details can be found on the notice board in the hall.

Next Sunday, our brothers and sisters of the Peacemaking Fellowship will lead us in worship.

	TODAY 18 June
Liturgist:	Sunita Suna
Preacher:	Maggie Mathieson
Pianist:	Joshua Pang
Lector:	Harry Chan
Intercessory Prayers:	Peter Youngblood
Family Talk:	Maggie Mathieson
Greeter:	Lucy Lim Stephanie Mumbi
Offering Rota:	Daddy Susan Babasa
Counting Rota	Paul Wong Sunita Suna
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur
Freewill offering last week: HK\$2,208 - Promissory offering last week: HK\$600-	