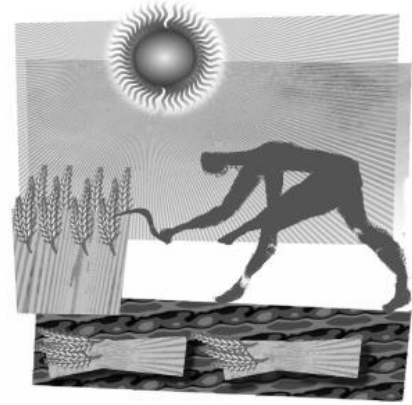


Kowloon Union Church  
"Where all are one"  
4 Jordan Road, Kowloon  
Tel. 2367-2585 • kuc@kuc.hk  
Secretary: Candy Lam  
Minister: Maggie Mathieson  
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



**Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**23 July 2023**  
**Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.**  
**(\*: Congregation Stands)**

### **APPROACH**

**PREPARATION SONG** "Bless the Lord, My Soul" – Taizé  
**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**  
**\* HYMN** "Gather Us In" – Composer: M Haugen  
**CALL TO CONFESSION**  
**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**  
**ALL RESPOND** "Change My Heart, Oh God" – Composer: E Espinosa  
**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.**

**UCCP SINGERS** "Your Words Are Spirit and Life"

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 (O.T.)

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

**And bear much fruit for Your glory.**

**\* HYMN** "Good Soil" – Composer: H Hanson  
**FAMILY TALK**  
**SERMON** "Co-existence"  
**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

## THE OFFERTORY

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL RESPOND** "Ubi Caritas" (Where there is charity, there is love) – Taizé

**OFFERTORY**

**THE PEACE**

\* **HYMN** "The Spirit Lives to Set Us Free"

– Composer: D Lundy

\* **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

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### Concerns of the Church

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

- Many countries, people and lands suffer under adverse weather conditions, intense hot weather in one area and endless rain and flooding in others. These and many other issues are signs of our failure to monitor our use of resources in the world. May God forgive us and protect those facing the hardships these conditions bring.
- Russian forces launched missile attacks on Ukraine's Black Sea coast, destroying 60,000 tonnes of grain and storage infrastructure after ending a deal which guaranteed safe passage for exports by sea. This action will affect millions worldwide, particularly in the developing world. Let us pray for peace in the World.
- The Supreme Court in Ghana has dismissed an application to stop parliament from considering a controversial anti-LGBT bill. The Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill 2021 would see LGBT people jailed for a maximum of three years and promoters of it imprisoned for up to 10 years. Let us pray that the hearts of those in governance will be open and receptive to reason and understanding.
- Ten months after the death of Mahsa Amini and the mass protests in Iran, the morality police have resumed patrolling the streets to enforce the dress code for women. The actions of the demonstrations have empowered many women and given them the courage to express themselves freely. May the women continue to be strong as they face these challenges and the consequences nationally of their choices.
- Hong Kong Police raided the family home of exiled pro-democracy activist Nathan Law. As a result of the raid, Mr Law's parents and a brother were taken into custody for questioning and subsequently released. Authorities issued a HK\$1 million bounty for Mr Law's arrest and seven other activists involved in the 2019 movement. We pray for protection for these young people whose commitment to democracy has driven some into exile, separated from family and all that is familiar. We pray the Lord will instil calm where there is fear.
- Let us earnestly pray for those in Hong Kong seeking employment as government figures show a further drop in the rate. The unemployment rate is now 2.9 percent -

the lowest in almost four years. Numbers will likely drop again as those who recently graduated from school or university will be added.

- We join our hearts and prayers with the family and the many who knew and loved Methodist pastor Revd Yuen Tin-yau, who was 'called home' to be with God last week after a long illness. Revd Yuen was a man of conviction and integrity. We thank God for his life which bore witness to his commitment to strive for a just and democratic society in Hong Kong. We pray God's comfort and peace rest on those he loved and served, and may we always be inspired by the example he left.

### **For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

We are **thankful** for:

- the abundant natural resources in the DRC and the mountainous beauty of Rwanda
- those who have worked for healing and reconciliation in Rwanda, especially after the genocide
- the tireless efforts of churches and community organisations, working with the support of humanitarian organisations, to improve the living conditions of the people

We **pray** for:

- an end to poverty and hunger and improved access to health services, especially for the young, that they might have hope for their future
- an end to rebel movements across borders and the political instability this stirs up
- just economic development that does not exploit Creation and people
- democratic election of non-corrupt governments that work for the sake of all.

### **For the Congregation**

- We pray for the mothers of Alex Melwani and Sunita Suna and the father-in-law of Ms Candy. For Mrs Samuel, Holly Chui, Hend, James Kim, Jeanette Lee, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Chui, Ana and Ramon Bultron, Lucy Lim, Mercy, Poulis Zaki, 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. Please join us for coffee and tea in the Lower Fellowship Hall after worship.

### **This Week's Programs in Church**

- Tuesday - Peace Making Fellowship – The group will visit the Chinese University of Hong Kong (see more below)
- Thursday - NFG Choir at 4:30 pm in KUC

## **Unique Appeal – The Education Fund**

The Peace Making Ministry is appealing for your support in prayers and donation of funds for children within the community. This year, our target is to raise HK\$ 20,000 - \$40,000. The money raised will be used to buy school books, uniforms, and shoes and covers non-refundable school fees for our children. No matter how large or small your donation, it will make a difference in a child's life. Please see the insert for more details on how you can donate to this appeal. Thank you and God bless.

## **Dates for your Diary**

### **Tuesday – Peacemaking Fellowship Outing**

“Journey of the Soul” – A tour of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Divinity School of Chung Chi College led by Jensen Wong

**Date: 25 July 2023**

**Meeting place: KUC**

**Time of Meeting: 09:15**

**Tour will end: 14:00**

**Use the link to register or click on the QR code.**



## **VBS – Vacation Bible School**

### **CONCRETE AND CRANES – BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION OF JESUS!**

**VBS Dates: 7 August through 11 August - Time: 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Venue: Lower Fellowship Hall**

**Ages: 6 – 11 years old**

**Speak with Pastor Maggie if you need more information concerning the VBS. To register your child, please click on the QR code.**



	<b>TODAY 23 July</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK 30 July</b>
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Phyllis Wong	Bud Carroll
Pianist:	Joshua Pang	Jessica Tso
Lector:	Jensen Wong	Chris Law
Intercessory Prayers:	Paul Lucas	Emmanuel Adesina
Family Talk:	Maggie Mathieson	Lydia Cathedral
Greeter:	Peter Youngblood Journaliz Badon	Lucy Lim Kevin Ng
Offering Rota:	Daddy Kulwinder Kaur	Peter Youngblood Journaliz Badon
Counting Rota	Ramon Bultron Sunita Suna	Paul Wong Judy Chan
Sunday School Leaders:	Tong Chong Sze	Tong Chong Sze
I.T. Team:	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$6104.50-  
Promissory offering last week: HK\$1,450 -