

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



**Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**  
**20 August 2023**  
**Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.**  
**(\*: Congregation Stands)**

### **APPROACH**

**PREPARATION SONG** "Bless the Lord"

–Taize Community

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* HYMN** "Be Still for the Presence of the Lord" – Composer: David J. Evans

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

– Trad. Orthodox

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

Lord, open our lips.

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

**HYMN** "Give Thanks" – Music/Word: Henry Smith, Words additional:

Chan Beng Seng

**SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

Luke 19: 1-10 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

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

**HYMN** "If You Believe and I Believe" - Music/Words: Traditional Zimbabwe

**FAMILY TALK**

**SERMON** “Believe in God, Believe in Yourself! ”

**\* 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

**OFFERTORY**

**THE PEACE**

**\* HYMN** “For Everyone Born” – Music: Lori True; Words: Shirley E. Murray

**\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

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**Concerns of the Church**

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

- Yesterday was World Humanitarian Day. As we witness numerous natural and man-made disasters around the globe. We pray “for the survival, well-being and dignity of people affected by crises, and for the safety and security of aid workers.”
- Rescue continues in the wake of the catastrophic Hawaiian wildfires. The death toll has risen to 111 as of Thursday and is expected to increase as only a small part of the disaster site has been searched. We pray for the victims of the fire, the well-being and dignity of the survivors and the safety of the aid workers amidst the disorder that ensues from this disaster.
- The situation in Niger following the coup d’etat remains tense, as the West African bloc ECOWA is reported to have activated a “standby force” and intervene militarily should “diplomatic efforts to reverse a coup fails”. We pray for a peaceful resolution that upholds the well-being and dignity of the people in the country.
- Fierce fighting between two powerful militias erupted on Monday in Tripoli, the capital of Libya. Fifty-five people have been killed, with 146 injured. We pray for the senseless bloodshed victims and their loved ones.
- More than 60 people are feared dead as a boat carrying migrants was found in a shipwreck off the coast of Cape Verde in West Africa. Thirty-eight people survived, including four children between 12 and 16.
- Revd. Eric Attique Sidhu, one of our mission partners in Pakistan, recently shared with us that at least 22 churches have been burnt, and more than 60 houses have been set ablaze in his country. The attacks on churches have been an ongoing problem in the country. Similar attacks on Christians have also taken place in India as well. Let us remember churches and our sisters and brothers in Pakistan, India and other parts of the world where people of faith are experiencing violence and discrimination. Pray for safety and protection for Christians and people of other religions facing violent attacks. May the evil powers of destruction be stopped; may mercy, peace and justice reign in the land.

## **For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

We are **thankful** for:

- the natural resources in these countries that they might benefit the peace and welfare of all
- the diverse ethnic and religious groups who long have lived together in peace and harmony, especially the Muslims and Christians in Sierra Leone
- democratic election of leaders who have brought political stability and accountability
- how diseases such as Ebola have been brought under control.

We **pray** for:

- the churches in these countries, for their evangelism and social outreach, faithful witness and action in times of conflict, and for interfaith cooperation with others
- the majority of the people who are still impoverished, that adequate services and policies will be provided that enable them to live with dignity and good health
- more just governance, free of corruption, accountable to the people, and that manages resources in ways that benefit all.

## **For the Congregation**

- We are grateful to God for a smooth, Extraordinary General Meeting last Sunday. Thank you to all members who attended the Meeting. We are pleased to announce that a new treasurer, Kenneth Ku, was elected. Deaconess Joy Prim and Pastor Joram Calimutan were elected as new Council members. We are thankful to the outgoing Council members Doris, Rey, Edwina, Sunita, and Treasurer Cynthia for their dedicated service to the church.
- We pray for the young people who flew to the Philippines last week and their safe trip back to Hong Kong today. We look forward to hearing their experiences and reflections from them on this fact-finding trip and visits to the people in this land.
- We thank God once again for those who helped in any way in our VBS, those who helped set up the hall, and those who donated funding and props for the setting. And those who gave of their time to be with our children over the week - especially Justine Bang, Peter Youngblood, Jenet Onwufuju and Divine Mmaduabuchukwu.
- Holly's father, Kuo Shi Pei and Doris's uncle James Kim were called home last week. Both of them had long health struggles. May we remember and pray for Holly and Doris and their family in this time of loss. May God's love give them comfort and peace.
- We pray for the mothers of Alex Melwani and Sunita Suna and the father-in-law of Ms Candy. For Mrs Samuel, Holly Chui, Revd Bud Carroll, Hend, Jeanette Lee, Kevin Ng, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Chui, Ana and Ramon Bultron, Lucy Lim, Mercy, Poulis Zaki and Joy Babasa. 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**, Revd Dr Ngeo Boon Lin, for sharing the Words of God with our congregation. He is an advocate for LGBTIQ inclusion in the church. He has been ministering LGBTI Christian fellowships and churches in Asia and is currently teaching gender studies at Hunter

College, City University of New York. Please join us for coffee and tea in the Lower Fellowship Hall after worship.

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

- Tuesday - Peacemaking Fellowship will go to a Beach activity this week
- Wednesday - Harambe – 6:00 pm, KUC Sanctuary
- Sunday - Sunday Morning Bible Study, Upper Fellowship Hall, 9 am.

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

The Peacemaking 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. Thank you all for your support!

### **Movie Sunday – Organised by Peacemaking Ministry & Mission, Outreach, Ecumenism Committee**

On this special Movie Sunday, we will screen “The Sunny Side of the Street”, a Hong Kong production telling the story of a Pakistani refugee boy and a local taxi driver. Peter Yam, the producer of this film, will join us for a Q & A session after the screening!

You are welcome to join a simple lunch with food prepared by refugees/asylum seekers. A minimum donation of HKD30 is recommended if you're joining lunch. Please scan the QR code for details and registration, or contact Katie with any questions about the event.



**Date: 27/8 (Sunday)**

**Time: 12:30 pm to 1:20 pm Lunch, Upper Fellowship Hall**

**Movie Time: 1:30 to 4:30 pm, Lower Fellowship Hall**

	<b>TODAY 20 August</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK 27 August</b>
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Revd Dr Ngeo Boon Lin	Peter Youngblood
Pianist:	Katie Ho	Jessica Tso
Lector:	Carol Yuen	Caden Lam
Intercessory Prayers:	Venus Cheng	Tory Caplan
Family Talk:	Rey Asis	Lydia Cathedral
Greeter:	Kevin Ng Susan Babasa	Journaliz Badon Lucy Lim
Offering Rota:	Anjette Bolanos Kulwinder Kaur	Daddy Ching So
Counting Rota	Rey Asis Ramon Bultron	Chan Beng Seng Robert Lam
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina Maggie Mathieson	Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$3,194 - Promissory offering last week: HK\$1,000- Education Fund: HK\$39,800-
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