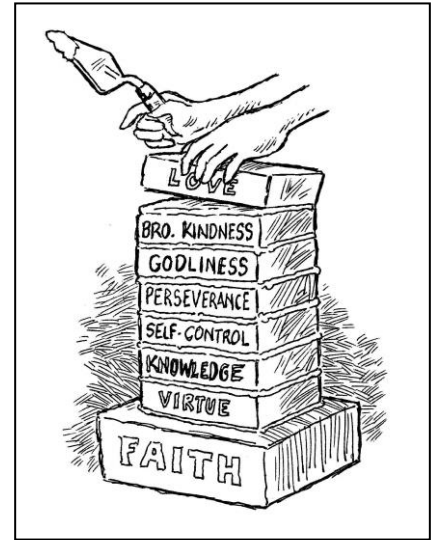


Kowloon Union Church
"Where all are one"
4 Jordan Road, Kowloon
Tel. 2367-2585 • kuc@kuc.hk
Secretary: Candy Lam
Social Ministry Worker: Katie Ho
Minister: Maggie Mathieson
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
27 August 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
(*: Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Lead Me Lord"

– Composer: S Wesley

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** "10,000 Reasons"

– Composers: J. Mirin and M. Redman

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

UCCP_HK "God's Word Changes Lives"

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Romans 12: 1-8 (N.T.)

Matthew 16: 13-20 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN "We Are One in the Spirit"

- Composer: P.Scholtes

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "Foundation Stones"

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MISSION MOMENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "O Lord, Hear our prayer"

– Taizé

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** "My Hope is Built"

– Music: H. F. Hemy; Words: E Mote

* **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Concerns of the Church

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

- More than 1000 people remain unaccounted for in the town of Lahaina after the wildfires of two weeks ago. Officials combing through the rubble continue to find only bones or body fragments, which makes the task of identification even more difficult. We pray for all efforts to locate those unaccounted for and for success in the search. As the community seeks to draw itself together, may God's healing hand fall on every member, bringing comfort to all in need.
- Thousands of Haitians have fled their homes in Port-au-Prince amid soaring gang violence. The ongoing conflict has already claimed the lives of 2,400 people this year. The United Nations observers recorded that at least 5,000 people fled the Carre-Feuilles district of the capital this week when gang members took control of the district. Scripture tells us we should put down our weapons, violent words, and acts. We pray that the people of Haiti can do that and find a way of understanding and living together.
- As wildfires continue to blaze in the foothills near Athens and the Evros region near the border with Turkey, a further tragedy has been uncovered as the remains of eighteen people thought to be refugees and migrants have been discovered. It is believed that those who have perished recently crossed the border and were hiding in the forest. We pray for the continued work of firefighters in the area trying to control the blaze and for these poor undocumented souls lost in the flames. May they be at peace.
- The International Criminal Court has begun the confirmation process of charges in the case of Central African Republic (CAR) war crimes suspect Maxime Mokom. The hearing aims to establish if there are enough grounds to escalate the case to a trial. Mr Mokom is accused of several crimes that caused great pain and the loss of lives. In all proceedings, may the truth prevail and justice served.
- On Wednesday, India succeeded, where many have failed, in landing a robotic probe - Chandryayaan - 3- near the south pole of the Moon. Among other things behind this lunar approach is the possibility of discovering water in the region of the Moon. The Indian team is planning a joint Lunar Polar Exploration (Lupex) mission with Japan by 2026. As we become increasingly skilled in space exploration, we should always be mindful of our call to be good stewards of all we have been given and avoid making the same mistakes we have made on Earth.

- Police here in Hong Kong have recorded almost a 30 per cent jump in child abuse cases in the first six months of the year. They have attributed the increased incidents to the 'return to normalcy' after COVID-19. Children returning to social events and school are exposed to more encounters with those who would take advantage of a minor. Children back in school are also more closely monitored, and cases are reported. Many are under tremendous pressure and in stressful situations, but nothing gives another person the right to abuse others, especially the most vulnerable. May the Spirit rain down peace and patience for all and protect our children.
- More than 3.8 million passengers went through Hong Kong Airport in July, a rise of 15 per cent from the month before. Figures are still not close to pre-Covid times but are rising. It is good to see such figures rising as it indicates things are picking up, and those in the industry may feel more at ease in their workplace.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

We are **thankful** for:

- The many ways in which these countries have moved beyond their colonial histories, especially from the scars related to the slave trade,
- this region's distinctive music and cultural practices of storytelling (*griots*)
- economic and educational advances that have lifted some out of poverty
- promising transitions into democracy and changes in government leaders
- the persistent, faithful witness of churches in the midst of other faiths.

We **pray** for:

- Those people in these societies who continue to live in abject poverty
- an end to policies, systems, and cultural practices that continue to exploit and marginalize some groups
- the fair election of more just government leaders who respect the rights of all people
- faith communities witnessing and working together for the common good.

For the Congregation

- We thank God for the safe return of the Mission team who went to the Philippines.
- We give thanks for our intern, Jensen Wong, who has been with us over the summer months. Please remember Jensen in your prayers as he continues his studies and seeks the place God has prepared for him. This is Jensen's last official week with us, but we hope not the last time we will see him in KUC.
- Pray for all to go smoothly in the relocation of Worship Services to the Lower Fellowship Hall. Work will begin in the Sanctuary in September – we are a few weeks behind the original schedule and hope work can go smoothly and catch up with the time frame.
- 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. A special thanks to Dr. Peter Youngblood for sharing the Word of God with us this morning.

This Week's Programs in Church

- Tuesday - Peacemaking Fellowship at 10 a.m. in Number 2 Jordan Road.
Wednesday - Harambe – 6:00 pm, KUC Sanctuary
Sunday - Sunday Morning Bible Study, Upper Fellowship Hall, 9 a.m.

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, we have reached our upper target of HK\$40,000, but there is always room for more ☺ 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. For details and registration, contact Katie.

Date: 27/8 Today Time: 12:30 pm to 1:20 pm Lunch, Upper Fellowship Hall

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

	TODAY 27 August	NEXT WEEK 3 September
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Peter Youngblood	Phyllis Wong
Pianist:	Jessica Tso	Katie Ho
Lector:	Caden Lam	Jennifer Chan
Intercessory Prayers:	Tory Caplan	Journaliz Badon
Family Talk:	Lydia Cathedral	Chan Beng Seng
Greeter:	Journaliz Badon Jensen Wong	Susan Babasa Chris Law
Offering Rota:	Daddy Ching So	Kulwinder Kaur Emmanuel Adesina
Counting Rota	Chan Beng Seng Robert Lam	Jennifer Chan Ramon Bultron
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina	Jaylin Tomitis
I.T. Team:	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$4,540.40 -
Promissory offering last week: HK\$800-
Education Fund: HK\$40,000- Welfare Fund: \$5,000-