

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

24 September 2023

Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation Stands)



APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG “Be Still and Know”

– Anon

Be still and Know that I am God;
be still and know that I am God;
be still and know that I am God.

In Thee , O Lord, I put my trust;
in Thee, O Lord, I put my trust;
in Thee, O Lord, I put my trust.

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*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: O give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name,
Make known God’s deeds among the peoples!

All : Sing to the Lord, sing praises! Declare all that God has done.

One: Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord be joyful!

All: Seek the Lord and be strong; seek God’s presence always.

* **HYMN** “Be Exalted O God” - Composer: B Chambers

I will give thanks to Thee
O Lord among the people
I will sing praises to Thee
Among the nations
For Thy steadfast love is great
Is great to the heavens
And Thy faithfulness
Thy faithfulness to the clouds

Be exalted O God above the heavens
Let Thy glory be over all the earth
Be exalted O God above the heavens
Let Thy glory , be over all the earth

I will give thanks to Thee
O Lord among the people
I will sing praises to Thee
Among the nations
For Thy steadfast love is great
Is great to the heavens
And Thy faithfulness
Thy faithfulness to the clouds

Be exalted O God above the heavens
Let Thy glory be over all the earth
Be exalted O God above the heavens
Let Thy glory , let Thy glory, let Thy glory be over all the earth -
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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We would want to be fountains of hope for others, God of glory, but people find only hardened hearts. We would like to be transformed people, but our stubborn pride prevents us from bending a knee to you. We long to stand with those who are in need, but our selfishness keeps our backs rigid with judgment.

Forgive us, God who came down to us. Humble us, that we might be true servants to the broken and lost. Split open our frozen hearts, that compassion might flow freely to those who are hurting. Fill our minds with the presence of your Spirit, that we might learn how to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, into that kin-dom of grace and hope.

ALL RESPOND “Kyrie Eleison” (Lord, have mercy)

– Trad. Orthodox

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison --||--

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

This is the good news: in Christ, God's plan for salvation was accomplished. You are forgiven, you are made new.

We will complete God's joy, by sharing compassion, forgiveness, hope, with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

* **HYMN** “Praise, I Will Praise You Lord”

– Composer: C Frayssé

Praise, I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart.

O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.

Praise, I will praise you Lord, with all my heart.

In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Love, I will love you, Lord, with all my heart.

O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.

Love, I will love you Lord, with all my heart.

In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

Serve, I will serve you, Lord, with all my heart.

O God, I will tell the wonders of your ways,
and glorify your name.

Serve, I will serve you Lord, with all my heart.

In you I will find the source of all my joy. Alleluia!

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SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Matthew 20: 1 – 16 (N.T.)

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went.

When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'

When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour,

and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN "One More Step"

– Composer: S Carter

One more step along the world I go
One more step along the world I go
From the old things to the new
Keep me traveling along with You

And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me travelling along with You
Round the corners of the world I turn
More and more about the world I learn
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me

And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me travelling along with You

As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me travelling the way I should
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way I know

And it's from the old I travel to the new
Keep me travelling along with You --||--

FAMILY TALK

SERMON “Whatever is Right”

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MISSION MOMENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the
glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

ALL RESPOND “Ubi Caritas”

– Taizé

Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas, Deus Ibi Est.

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OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** “Trust and Obey”

– Composer: J H Sammis

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way
While we do His good will
He abides with us still
And with all who will trust and obey

Trust and obey
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey

Not a shadow can rise
Not a cloud in the skies
But His smile quickly drives it away
Not a doubt nor a fear
Not a sigh nor a tear
Can abide while we trust and obey

Trust and obey
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey

Not a burden we bear
Not a sorrow we share
But our toil He doth richly repay
Not a grief nor a loss
Not a frown nor a cross
But is blessed if we trust and obey

Trust and obey
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey

Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet
Or we'll walk by His side in the way
What He says we will do
Where He sends we will go
Never fear only trust and obey

Trust and obey
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey --||--

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Concerns of the Church

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

- Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo has demanded the payment of reparations to African nations for the historical injustices of the transatlantic slave trade. Speaking at the UN General Assembly on Wednesday, he emphasised that this was the time to bring the subject of reparations to the fore. Stating that the world had for centuries been unwilling and unable to confront the consequences of the slave trade. Surely, it is time the world admits to the horrors of this tainted history - may the developed world sit up and listen and respond to these appeals, taking full responsibility for our actions.
- A group of five American citizens held in Iranian prisons for years were reunited with family and friends after a controversial prisoner swap. The five were released after US authorities 'unfroze' \$6.4bn in Iranian cash held in South Korea. Five Iranians have also been released from American custody. We pray for this time of reunification and re-entry into life as free men and women.
- Venezuelans seeking asylum in the US who already live in the country will be allowed to work legally under new rules announced by the Biden administration. About 472,000 people will be eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months. It follows calls by Democrats to expand work access for newly arrived migrants. May those fortunate to obtain this

extension use the time to secure their future and find a permanent place to live.

- Many migrants seeking to cross the Mexico /US border hitch rides on the roofs and sidings of freight car trains. Many are injured or killed accidentally as they fall from the moving vehicles or get trapped in the couplings. A company which operates some of Mexico's railways has suspended 60 of its routes in a move to try and stop this happening. People should not need to risk their lives in such dangerous situations for those who do; we seek God's protection and guidance.
- Morocco's King Mohammed VI has said that the country will spend \$11.6bn to rebuild the region destroyed by the 8 September earthquake. The funds will also support more than 4.2 million people in the provinces mostly impacted by the quake. The palace envisages that recovery may take five years or more. The country has received \$700 million in donations from the world community. We continue to remember those who have lost loved ones and pray for all as they face the huge challenges ahead.
- The lower house of the Indian parliament has passed a bill guaranteeing a third of seats for women in the parliament and state assemblies. The bill, first proposed in 1996, has been pending for decades amid opposition from some political parties. The bill still has some way from being implemented, as that would depend on the completion of India's census. With a more balanced parliament, we pray for better representation of all the people of the land.
- A local kindergarten in Sheung Shui has failed to meet the standards of the Education Bureau - causing great concerns

among the parents with children attending. Approved kindergartens can qualify for Kindergarten Education Scheme, under which subsidies are granted to Kindergartens and pupils. Without it, many families may be unable to afford Kindergarten education for their children. We pray that these families may find peace in this situation and that alternative schooling can be sourced for the pupils.

- A construction worker was tragically killed at a work site after being pinned down by a concrete slab. The Labour Department is investigating the fatal accident. May stronger regulations be in place and followed to ensure worker safety. May God's love bring comfort to the family.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile and Peru.

We are **thankful** for:

- the distinctive rhythms, music, dance, food and natural medicine in this area
- the beauty of the region, forests, mountains, rivers, lakes, and ocean coastlines, and especially indigenous peoples' relationship with and care for the natural environment
- churches who witness and work both ecumenically and with those of other faiths to build relationships of trust and commitment amid ongoing injustice and oppression
- the diversity of languages and cultures flourishing in the region despite disruptions that have occurred through colonization and political and economic turmoil.

We pray for:

- Christians to have the courage, imagination and energy to build bridges of peace and understanding against conflict and division and to pursue justice for the poor, marginalized and dispossessed
- an end to corruption at all levels of society, including economic exploitation, which impoverishes and hinders economic growth from benefitting all
- immigrants and refugees seeking a new home and those who accompany and support them
- coca farmers to find sustainable incomes from other crops, for an end to drug trafficking, and effective assistance for those who are addicted.

For the Congregation

- We thank God that we have the provision of our Fellowship Halls that allows us to continue to worship together as One in the Lord, and we pray for those who will be working on the renovation work within the church.
- We pray for the fun and fellowship we will share today in our BBQ outing – may the Lord protect us and keep us safe.
- 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, Joy Babasa and Rebecca Mumbi Theuri. We remember those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.

Announcements

Today - a warm welcome to all who join our worship this morning. Thank you, Dr. Hope, 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 Upper Fellowship Hall

TODAY

Directly after Worship, we will leave for our afternoon of BBQ fun.

The bus will leave from outside the Church, as close to noon as possible and take everyone to the BBQ site in Tai Po.

The bus will return to KUC by 5 p.m., making one stop at Kowloon Tong. Please let Pastor Phyllis know if you wish to be dropped off at Kowloon Tong.

Fee: Adult HK\$ 180 Concessionary: HK\$80

The fee includes Food, Drinks and Transportation.

	TODAY 24 September	NEXT WEEK 1 October
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Hope Antone	Hans Lutz
Pianist:	Joshua Pang	Jessica Tso
Lector:	Chris Law	Caden Lam
Intercessory Prayers:	Paul Lucas	Emanuel Adesina
Family Talk:	Mayson Fung	Maggie Mathieson
Greeter:	Lucy Lim Journaliz Badon	Paul Wong Susan Babasa
Offering Rota:	Daddy Mercy Matilda	Rose Muiriri
Counting Rota	Jennifer Chan Judy Chan	Jennifer Chan Paul Wong
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur
<p>Freewill offering last week: HK\$3,020.90- Promissory offering last week: HK\$1300- Welfare Fund: HK\$5,000-</p>		