

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



Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
24 September 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
(*: Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Be Still and Know"

– Anon

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** "Be Exalted O God"

- Composer: B Chambers

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** "Praise, I Will Praise You Lord"

– Composer: C Frayssé

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Matthew 20: 1 – 16 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN "One More Step"

– Composer: S Carter

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "Whatever is Right"

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MISSION MOMENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "Ubi Caritas"

– Taizé

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** "Trust and Obey"

– Composer: J H Sammis

* **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

Freewill offering last week: HK\$3,020.90-
 Promissory offering last week: HK\$1300-
 Welfare Fund: HK\$5,000-