

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

1 October 2023

Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

World Communion Sunday

(*: Congregation Stands)



APPROACH

SONG OF PREPARATION “Wait For The Lord”

– Composer: Taizé

Wait for the Lord,

whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord:

Keep watch, take heart! --||--

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

From north and south,
from east and west, we come:

**God's people called to the Table
where simple grace nourishes us.**

From right next door, to across the city,
**God's people are called to community,
where we live and serve one another.**

From every class, every race, every status;
**God's people are called to witness to God's hope, to
offer peace to a shattered world.**

* **HYMN** “Gather Us In” – Composer: Marty Haugen

Here in this place,
new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away.
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in – the lost and forsaken,
gather us in – the blind and the lame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat, the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place,
the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in – and hold us forever,
gather us in – and make us your own.

Gather us in – all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy,
we confess that we have often failed to speak and
act with kindness.**

**We have not always cared for others as you care
for us.**

**We have not welcomed others as we have been
welcomed to your table,
nor have we forgiven others as we have been
forgiven.**

**Forgive us for not connecting with you like the
branches with the vine. We walk our own ways and
not listen to you. We confess!**

**Change our heart and renew our soul oh God.
Amen!**

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

– Traditional Orthodox

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

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ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news! Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation; the old life is fading, the new life has started to emerge in us. Know that we are forgiven, and so let us have the courage to receive the saving grace of Christ and commit ourselves to return to the love and life of God again. **Amen!**

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

* **HYMN** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

– Music: Trad; Words: J Neander

Praise to the Lord the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul praise Him, for He is your health and
salvation.

Come all who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and
defend us;

surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend us
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises
before Him.

Let the Amen sound from His people again
gladly for all we adore Him. --||--

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 1:1-6 (O.T.)

1Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the
wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the
seat of scoffers;

**2but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on
his law they meditate day and night.**

3They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do
not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

**4The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the
wind drives away.**

5Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**6for the LORD watches over the way of the
righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Philippians 2:1-13 (N.T.)

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete:

be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

John 15:1-8 (N.T.)

”I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.

3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

5I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

FAMILY TALK

SERMON “Living Branches”

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – APOSTLES’ CREED**

**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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL RESPOND “O Lord, Hear Our Prayer”

– Composer: Taizé

O Lord, hear our prayer;

O Lord, hear our prayer;

when we call answer us.

O Lord, hear our prayer,

O Lord, hear our prayer;

come and listen to us

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OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** “We Are One in the Bond of Love”

– Composer: David Slater

We are one in the bond of love;

We are one in the bond of love;

We have joined our spirit with the Spirit of God,

We are one in the bond of love.

Let us sing now everyone;

Let us feel His love begun;

Let us join our hands that the world will know,

We are one in the bond of love. --||--

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

C: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

C: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

C: Let us give thanks to the Lord Our God

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

C: It is right to praise you, God of all creation;
in your love you made us in your holy image.

When we turn away you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in Jesus.

**All: You welcomed us as your children and
invited us to sit and eat with you.**

C: In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

All: He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

C: With all your Church through the world we offer you our praise and lift our voice to join the everlasting song of heaven:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might

Heaven and Earth are full of Your Glory;

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

C: As we gather in praise and thanksgiving, we remember the night before his passion. He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, saying to his friends: "Take and eat: this is my body given for you." When the meal was over, he took the cup, and gave it to his friends, saying:

"drink this cup, this is my blood of the new covenant, that is shed for you and all others. You do it for remembering me."

All: God of life and love, we do this to remember Jesus: his body is the bread of life; his blood is shed for the forgiveness of sins and to restore all relations.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

**C: As we proclaim his death and celebrate his resurrection,
send your holy spirit that this bread and this cup may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.**

All: As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.

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.

DISTRIBUTION

C: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in one bread.

Jesus said,
I am the vine; you are the branches. Abide in me as I
abide in you. Those who abide in me and I in them
bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do
nothing.

(John 15:4-5)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**Living God, in this sacrament we have shared in
your eternal kingdom.**

**May we who taste this mystery forever serve you
in faith, hope, and love.**

**May glory and honour be to you oh God, from
generation to generation, in the Church and in the
world. In the name of Jesus Christ and by the
power of the holy spirit we pray. Amen**

*** HYMN “Walls That Divide ”**

– Music: R Klusmeier; Words: W Farquharson

Though ancient walls may still stand proud
and racial strife be fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate,
proclaim God's saving act!

Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!

The truth we seek in varied schemes,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
of self and world made new.

Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!

The church divided seeks that grace,
that newness we proclaim,
a unity of serving love
that lives praise to God's name.

Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!

This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.

God's people, by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery.

Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty! --||--

* COMMISSION

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CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

- Armenians fleeing the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh are adding daily to the number of refugees in the world. Numbers recorded at the border suggest the region is being emptied of Ethnic Armenians. Armenians over the border have welcomed the refugees and are convinced they will continue accommodating people seeking safety. Temporary accommodation has been created in local schools and churches as hotels, hostels, etc., are already fully occupied. May God bless those practising hospitality to brothers and sisters in need.
- The authorities in Chile have raised the alert level for the Villarrica volcano to orange, the second-highest, after they registered a gradual increase in its activity. Villarrica is one of the most active volcanoes in South America. Families have been evacuated from the area, and schools in nearby towns have been closed for five days. Let those in the region continue to take precautions, remaining safe, and the volcano's force be quelled.
- Germany has banned the far-right sect Artgemeinschaft for spreading Nazi ideology to children and young people. The country's interior minister

called the group "deeply racist and antisemitic" and said it was trying "to raise new enemies of the constitution". We applaud the Government of Germany for its consistency and focus to avoid repeating history for its people.

- Sierra Leone's Vice-President Juldeh Jalloh has said his country intends to tackle mental health, a big issue in a country that has experienced several traumatic events recently. The government has a significant challenge with a population of around seven million - only 20 nurses in the country are trained to deal with mental health issues, along with two psychiatrists and one psychiatric doctor. This is a positive move and is much needed for the people - let us pray for its success.
- A very severe bird flu outbreak is hitting South African poultry suppliers. Millions of birds have reportedly died in the latest outbreak. This has led neighbouring countries to suspend all poultry imports from South Africa. Pray for the farmers and suppliers in South Africa that they can overcome yet another challenge to their livelihood.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of two workers tragically killed last week in a work-related incident in West Kowloon. Labour Secretary Chris Sun has stated authorities will inspect all enclosed construction spaces in the territory within the next two weeks. We pray the deaths of these two men will not be in vain and others will heed the safety measures needed on the work site.
- Congratulations to Hong Kong on her success in the Asian Games. Though Hong Kong is relatively small, its athletes have done well to bring home the medals they have. May our youngsters in training be encouraged by this achievement and train hard in the future.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela.

We are **thankful** for:

- the beauty in these countries, including in their people and cultural traditions
- persistent, patient, prophetic work of churches and ecumenical and other organizations, to establish peace with justice throughout the region, especially in Colombia

- resistance to past colonization and to practices of today that prioritize economic ideologies over the needs of the people
- efforts by churches and people of goodwill for inclusive and respectful relations in society and government.

We **pray** for:

- the continued pursuit of peace in Colombia, the fulfilment of agreements reached, the reintegration of insurgents into society, broad and inclusive dialogue for justice, and fair compensation of those victimized by conflict
- the strengthening of democratically elected governments in the region without pressure from outside interests
- greater respect for the human rights of all, especially vulnerable populations and those who work for the well-being of others and of the environment
- an end to the corruption in these societies and to the unsustainable exploitation of their resources.

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, 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, Revd Hans Lutz, 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

Date for your Diary

KUC Congregational Retreat 2023

The Christian Education Committee is organizing a retreat based on our Centenary theme – “Grounded in God, Growing in Faith, Giving in Community”.

You are welcome to join us as we seek a time to communicate with God, nourish our faith and find ways to grow and serve.

Details:

Date of Retreat: 23 October (Mon) Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Meeting Time: 9:30 am,

Exit A University Station, Chinese University

Venue: Theology Building, Chinese University

Cost: \$50/person (including lunch)

To register for the retreat, please click on the QR code



	TODAY 1 October	NEXT WEEK 8 October
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Hans Lutz	Dr Samuel Dubbleman
Pianist:	Jessica Tso	Katie Ho
Lector:	Paul Wong	Harry Chan
Intercessory Prayers:	Emanuel Adesina	Tory Caplan
Family Talk:	Maggie Mathieson	Phyllis Wong
Greeter:	Paul Wong Susan Babasa	Edwina Antonio Lucy Lim
Offering Rota:	Rose Muiriri Kulwinder Kaur	Thapa Samjhana Journaliz Badon
Counting Rota	Jennifer Chan Paul Wong	Edwina Antonio Gabi Baumgartner
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur
Freewill offering last week: HK\$3,324- Promissory offering last week: HK\$900-		