

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



Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
8 October 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
(*: Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Be Still and Know"

– Anon

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** "All Creatures of Our God and King"

– Music: R V Williams Words Attr: St Francis of Assisi

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** "How Great Thou Art" – Music: Trad Folk; Words: C G Boberg

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 19 (O.T.)

Philippians 3: 4b – 14 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN "We Are Marching in the Light of God"

– Trad South African

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "Outlaw God"

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "Ubi Caritas"

– Taizé

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN "Be Thou My Vision"** – Music: Trad Words Attr: M E Byrne

* **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Concerns of the Church

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

- 2023 is on track to become the hottest year on record, with the global mean temperature of 0.52 Celsius higher than average this year. As we see more and more signs of our bad management of this beautiful planet we have been given, let us all do our best to recover that which we can.
- The United Nations health agency has recommended a second malaria vaccine for children, which could save hundreds and thousands of lives throughout the developing world. We thank God for the gift of the doctors and pharmacists developing more preventative vaccines for the world.
- A Moscow court has sentenced journalist Marina Ovsyannikova, who protested live on television against the Russian invasion of Ukraine, to 8.5 years imprisonment. She was tried and found guilty in absentia as she and her daughter fled the country after her public protest. Many others have been jailed under the same charges, though the outcome of their situation is not so widely known. May God protect those who have been imprisoned and keep their families safe.
- In Iran, a young Iranian girl has been hospitalised and in a coma after the morality police allegedly beat her for not wearing a hijab; we pray for her recovery. Activists have reported that family and press members have had telephones and cameras confiscated and even been detained by police. As this campaign continues in the land, we pray for the safety of those willing to stand up and fight for their rights. May the hearts of those in governance be softened.
- A small boat carrying 280 migrants has landed safely in the Spanish Canary Islands. The group safely landed after travelling some 380 km, taking one of the most notoriously dangerous routes from Africa. We thank God for the provision granted these 280 souls and pray they will be treated with respect and honour, finding that place of safety they have been seeking.
- Pakistan has ordered all unauthorised Afghan asylum seekers, an estimated 1.7 million people, to leave the country by November. The recent attacks along the countries' borders have triggered this edict. The movement of 1.7 million people, especially in the winter months, will be disastrous. Let us pray for further negotiations to be initiated, considering the people's well-being.

- A photo of two Chinese athletes that inadvertently referenced the Tiananmen Square massacre has been censored across Chinese social media. The shirt number of the two athletes from "64" is a common allusion to the incident on June 4. We remember those whose lives were never accounted for and the families who continue to wait.
- Chief Executive John Lee announced that about 30 companies have set up offices in Hong Kong through the Office for Attracting Strategic Enterprises (OASES). They are expected to provide 10,000 jobs in the city in the coming years. Hong Kong is in great need of this injection of new industry and the promise of future employment – we pray for the success of this scheme.
- The Hospital Authority has said all eligible residents can receive free seasonal influenza vaccines at public hospitals and general outpatient clinics from Thursday. The vaccines will be administered in phases, starting with high-risk patients and the elderly. By God's grace, we here in Hong Kong have a health system that works and is affordable to all.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama.

We are thankful for:

- the natural beauty in this region
- the cultural and spiritual contributions made by the indigenous peoples living in these countries
- church leaders and others who continue to struggle for justice, human rights, and dignity, and who work for reconciliation in these lands
- those who have turned away from violence and live peacefully with others.

We pray for:

- children and youth who are traumatized by violence and flee to other lands
- an end to gang violence and drug trafficking
- more just distribution of wealth that enables the millions who have been excluded to have access to a dignified life in these countries
- Christians to have the courage to live out the liberating gospel.

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 and Joy Babasa. We remember those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.
- We remember today our dear sister Stephanie Mumbi, mourning the loss of her beloved grandmother, Rebecca Mumbi Theuri. May God grant her family comfort and peace as she rests in eternal glory.

Announcements

Today - a warm welcome to all who join our worship this morning. Thank you, Dr. Samuel Dubbleman, for sharing the Word of God with us this morning.

Sharing the Word of God This Morning-

Samuel J. Dubbelman is Assistant Professor of Church History at Lutheran Theological Seminary. He is married to McCall, with whom he has the privilege of raising their five-year-old son Hans. Sam hails from North Carolina, and his research focuses on Christian mysticism in the medieval period and Martin Luther. He grew up Southern Baptist, but now his home church, at least in the U.S., is the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America).

This Week's Programs in Church

- Sunday – Joint Council and Trustees meeting 1:30 p.m. Upper Fellowship Hall.
Tuesday – Peacemaking Fellowship – Outing to RIP88, Sham Shui Po.
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.

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 8 October	NEXT WEEK 15 October
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Dr Samuel Dubbleman	Aimé Girimana
Pianist:	Katie Ho	Joshua Pang
Lector:	Harry Chan	Caden Lam
Intercessory Prayers:	Tory Caplan	Judy Chan
Family Talk:	Phyllis Wong	Mayson Fung
Greeter:	Edwina Antonio Lucy Lim	Susan Babasa Journaliz Badon
Offering Rota:	Thapa Samjhana Journaliz Badon	Anjenette Bolanos Jacob
Counting Rota	Edwina Antonio Gabi Baumgartner	Ramon Bultron Paul Wong
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur	Jennifer Pang Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$4,963.50-
Promissory offering last week: HK\$10,100-