

# Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

8 October 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

--||--

## **\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Look at the heavens!

**All: They are shouting the glory of God.**

The days and the nights declare the magnificence of  
God's creative works.

**Their voice goes through all the earth, and their  
words reach the ends of the world.**

Let our words of praise be acceptable to you.

**Our Lord, our rock, our redeemer!**

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

- Music: R V Williams    Words attr: St Francis of Assisi

All creatures of our God and King  
Lift up your voice and with us sing  
Alleluia alleluia

O burning sun with golden beam  
and silver moon with softer gleam  
O praise Him O praise  
Him  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O rushing wind that is so strong  
and clouds that sail in heaven along  
O praise Him alleluia

O rising morn in praise rejoice  
and lights of evening find a voice  
O praise Him O praise Him  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Dear mother earth who day by day  
Unfolds rich blessings on our way  
O praise Him alleluia

The flowers and fruits that bloom and grow  
Let them God's glory also show  
O praise Him O praise Him  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

--||--

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

**Almighty Creator of All, we confess that You have shown us through our ancestors, through our Scriptures, throughout all history and tradition that You are with us and have prepared a way for us, but we have rejected You and Your ways.**

**We seek the ways of the world we have made; we seek notoriety, wealth, power, and security.**

**These false idols have led us away from serving our neighbours in need, taking notice of the most vulnerable, and instead oppressing those who are different and choosing violence over love.**

**Call us away from the false idols of the world we have made and lead us into Your way of justice, mercy, and love. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

– Trad. Orthodox

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

--||--

## **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

O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made  
I see the stars I hear the mighty thunder  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art how great Thou art

And when I think that God His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die I scarce can take it in  
That on the Cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee

How great Thou art how great Thou art

Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee

How great Thou art how great Thou art

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation

And take me home what joy shall fill my heart

Then shall I bow in humble adoration

And there proclaim my God how great Thou art

Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee

How great Thou art how great Thou art

Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee

How great Thou art how great Thou art

--||--

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

Psalm 19 (O.T.)

1The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**2Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

3There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

**4yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**

5which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**6Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.**

7The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;**8the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

9the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**10More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

11Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

**12But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.**

13Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

**14Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

Philippians 3: 4b – 14 (N.T.)



4even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

5circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9and be found in him,

not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

10I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

We are marching in the light of God

We are marching in the light of God

We are marching in the light of God

We are marching in the light of God

We are marching, we are marching O-oh

We are marching in the light of God

We are marching, we are marching O-oh

We are marching in the light of God --||--

# **FAMILY TALK**

## **SERMON “Outlaw God”**

### **\* 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**

### **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. --||--

## **OFFERTORY**

## **THE PEACE**

\* **HYMN** “Be Thou My Vision”

– Music: Trad; Words: tr. M E Byrne

Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart

Naught be all else to me save that Thou art

Thou my best thought by day or by night

Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word

I ever with Thee and Thou with me Lord

Thou and Thou only first in my heart

Great God of heaven my treasure Thou art

Great God of heaven my victory won

May I reach heaven's joys

O bright heaven's Sun

Heart of my own heart whatever befall

Still be vision O Ruler of all

--||--

### **\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

As we press forward in faith,

**may we forget what lies behind and embrace the call  
You have set before us.**

May our lives bear the fruits of righteousness,

**as we seek to live out Your mission in this world.**

May we be instruments of Your peace,

**spreading love, grace, and justice wherever we go.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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.

	<b>TODAY</b> <b>8 October</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK</b> <b>15 October</b>
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
<p>Freewill offering last week: HK\$4,963.50-</p> <p>Promissory offering last week: HK\$10,100-</p>		