

Kowloon Union Church
"Where all are one"
4 Jordan Road, Kowloon
Tel. 2367-2585 • kuc@kuc.hk
Secretary: Candy Lam
Social Ministry Worker: Katie Ho
Minister: Maggie Mathieson
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



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

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Bless The Lord"

– Taize

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** "Be Still for the Presence of the Lord" – Composer: David Evans

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** "The Steadfast Love of the Lord" – Composer: Edith McNeill

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 23 (O.T.)

Matthew 22:1-14 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN "Seek Ye First" – by David Huff & Karen Lafferty

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "Worthiness of the Kingdom of Heaven"

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES' CREED**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "Ubi Caritas" (Where there is charity, there is love) – Taizé

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" – Composer: Daniel Schutte

* **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Concerns of the Church

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

- The situation is very tense in the Middle East after the surprise Hamas attack across the Gaza border on 7 Oct during a major Jewish holiday Saturday. The attack was coordinated across multiple locations backed by thousands of rounds of rocket fire and killed 1200 people in mass shootings in Israel including civilians in a music/dance festival. Many women, elderly and children had also allegedly been kidnapped and being held hostage within Gaza. This attack had triggered retaliation from Israel and already over 1000 people in Gaza had been killed in bombing raids which also affected hospitals and schools. Moreover, Israel had called up an unprecedented 300,000 reserves and had orchestrated a total blockade against Gaza, cutting off its water and electricity supply which would surely lead to a growing humanitarian crisis for the Palestinians caught between this Hamas-Israel war. Meanwhile, Hamas is calling for armed resistance from other groups making the situation even more volatile. In times like this when we feel so helpless and that it seems there is nothing we can do, we turn to God for hope and comfort, and pray for His mercy and guidance to turn hearts away from violence and mutual hate, that somewhere somehow, through this crisis, seeds would be sown for future reconciliation for lasting peace in the Middle East.
- Prisoners at Tacumbú jail, Paraguay's largest prison, started a riot on Tuesday afternoon on the 10 Oct and at least 10 guards are being held hostage. The prison director says members of a prison gang called Rotela Clan are behind the unrest, and one of their strange demands is a promise that the overcrowded Tacumbú to be reopened for new inmates even though the jail is already holding thousands more inmates than it was designed for. Local media have reported that this demand is an attempt by the Rotela Clan to further strengthen its influence in Tacumbú by having even more of its members sent to it. Paraguay and other countries in the region had been struggling to regain control of jails which for years have been run by inmates. We pray for governments in the region to tackle the root cause for crimes that fed recruits to gangs and clans in the first place.
- Another earthquake has hit western Afghanistan just days after two large quakes in the same region killed more than 1,000 people. The new 6.3 magnitude quake struck at around 05:10 local time on Wednesday, 28km north of the city of Herat.

More than 100 were injured and sent to hospital, health officials said. Many people have lost their homes and have to run barefoot to the outskirts of the city, where many have been sleeping in tents since the first quake. Aid agencies have said there is also a shortage of blankets, food and other supplies. We pray for swift and efficient humanitarian support to these people traumatised by yet another natural disaster.

- We are thankful for a 17-year old student with F.6 DSE stress who had been missing for eight days was found alive and safe. He was airlifted to hospital and seemed to be well despite being out in the woods for over a week without food and had to endure the typhoon over the weekend. This case reminds us to remember and pray for the young people in Hong Kong, for the stress that they are under these days: the uncertainty of the future of Hong Kong is adding even more burden to their already bursting exam pressure.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

We are **thankful** for:

- the cultures and foods distinctive here, yet enjoyed around the world
- indigenous and other groups who have resisted injustice and human rights violations
- church leaders who have spoken out and acted on behalf of the poor and marginalized
- developments that improve life for all, while also caring for the environment.

We **pray** for:

- stable, democratically elected governments committed to the peace and wellbeing of all
- comfort and healing for the families and loved ones of those who have been killed or disappeared, and for those responsible to be brought to justice
- stopping corruption, drug traffic, and violence, and those who profit from such activities
- improved economic life and trade policies so that people will not be exploited and can pursue livelihoods in these countries rather than migrating elsewhere for work.

For the Congregation

- Pray for the renovation of the church and safety of the workers.
- Pray for Pastor's Maggie treatment and God's healing grace dwell upon her fully.
- Pray for Revd Kwok Nai Wang (KUC's former Senior Minister), 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.

Announcements

Today - A warm welcome to all who join our worship this morning. Thank you, Aimé Girimana, for sharing the Word of God with us.

This Week's Programs in Church

Tuesday – Peacemaking Fellowship at 10am in KUCspace

Wednesday – Harambe – 6:00 pm, KUC Upper Fellowship Hall

Dates 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



Hiking to the Peak

The Care and Fellowship Committee will organize a hike on 29th October (Sunday). Gathering at 1 pm in church and finished by 5pm.

To register for the hike, please click on the QR code.



Extra-ordinary General Meeting – EGM

The EGM will be held on 5 Nov at 1:30pm, for the approval of budget 2024.

	TODAY 15 October	NEXT WEEK 22 October
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Rey Asis
Preacher:	Aimé Girimana	Phyllis Wong
Pianist:	Joshua Pang	Eva Kwan
Lector:	Caden Lam	Anjenette Bolanos
Intercessory Prayers:	Judy Chan	Robert Lam
Family Talk:	Mayson Fung	Chan Beng Seng
Greeter:	Susan Babasa Journaliz Badon	Lucy Lim Edna Lai
Offering Rota:	Anjenette Bolanos Jacob	Daddy Journaliz Badon
Counting Rota	Ramon Bultron Paul Wong	Ramon Bultron Jennifer Chan
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Jennifer Pang Bervinder Kaur	Jennifer Pang Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$1,755.90-

Promissory offering last week: HK\$800-