

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

22 October 2023

Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation Stands)



APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG “The Kingdom of God”

– Taizé

The Kingdom of God is justice and peace
And joy in the Holy Spirit
Come Lord and open in us
The gates of your Kingdom
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*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Let us worship the God who forms us as a people, a community, and a world!

Many: God knows our name and looks upon us with pleasure.

One: Let us hear, see, and know the ways of the Lord.

Many: God reveals Godself to us in magnificent and gentle ways.

One: Let us proclaim the glory, goodness, and graciousness of our Great God!

Many: Sing God’s praises always! AMEN.

* **HYMN** “Sing A New Song Unto the Lord”

– Composer: Daniel Schutte

Sing a new song unto the Lord;
let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord,
singing alleluia

Shout with gladness!
Dance for joy!
o come before the Lord.
And play for God on glad tambourines,
and let your trumpet sound

Sing a new song unto the Lord;
Let your song be sung from mountains high
Sing a new song unto the Lord
Singing alleluia

Rise, O children, from your sleep;
Your Saviour now has come
He has turned your sorrow to joy
And filled your soul with song

Sing a new song unto the Lord;
Let your song be sung from mountains high
Sing a new song unto the Lord
Singing alleluia --||--

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God, forgive us for all the ways our hearts have been hardened. Forgive us for every time we chose to reflect the ways, attitudes, and values of this world rather than your kingdom. Forgive us for turning away from the brokenness of our world when it becomes too uncomfortable. Forgive us for being timid when you empower us to be bold, for being resigned when you have created us to be resolute, for being complicit when you have charged us to be transformative. Help us to walk in your image and your path of righteousness, courageousness, and loving kindness. Amen.

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

– Trad. Orthodox

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

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ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God reminds us that we do not walk this journey alone. The Comforter and Advocate accompanies us and equips us for the ministry of abundant love that shows up, speaks up, and acts up in the name of Jesus. Let it be known to us that our lives and our witness make a difference. God is faithful to forgive and enables us to do the impossible and be the unimaginable. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

* **HYMN** “Great is Your Faithfulness”

– Music: W. M. Runyan ; Words: Thomas Obadiah Chisholm

Great is Your faithfulness, O God, Creator
With You no shadow of turning we see
You do not change, Your compassions, they fail not
All of Your goodness forever will be.

Great is Your faithfulness
Great is Your faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Your hand hath provided
Great is Your faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Your great faithfulness, mercy and love

Great is Your faithfulness
Great is Your faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Your hand hath provided
Great is Your faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Pardon for sin and a peace so enduring,
Your own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside

Great is Your faithfulness
Great is Your faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Your hand hath provided
Great is Your faithfulness, Lord, unto me
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SCRIPTURE READING

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

Psalm 96:1-13 (O.T.)

1O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD,
all the earth.

**2Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his
salvation from day to day.**

3Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous
works among all the peoples.

**4For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.**

5For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

6Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

7Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

8Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

9Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

10Say among the nations, “The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.”

11Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

12let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

13before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (N.T.)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every

place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.

9 For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Matthew 22:15-22 (N.T.)

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality.

17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius.

20 Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” 21 They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he

said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

22 When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN “Beauty for Brokenness”

– Composer: Graham Kendrick

Beauty for brokenness
Hope for despair
Lord, in the suffering
This is our prayer
Bread for the children
Justice, joy, peace
Sunrise to sunset
Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives
Cures for their ills
Work for the craftsman
Trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed
Rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause
Of those who can't speak

God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts
Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame

Refuge from cruel wars
Havens from fear
Cities for sanctuary
Freedoms to share
Peace to the killing-fields
Scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness
His cross for the pain

Rest for the ravaged earth
Oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned
Our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness
Carelessness, greed
Make us content with
The things that we need

God of the poor
Friend of the weak
Give us compassion we pray
Melt our cold hearts

Let tears fall like rain
Come, change our love
From a spark to a flame --||--

FAMILY TALK

SERMON “Turn to God from Idols”

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again 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

MISSION MOMENT

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”

(Where there is charity, there is love) – Taizé

Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas, Deus ibi est
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OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **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!

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*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts we receive and for the gifts we give. May they serve to make Your kindom come and Your will be done. Magnify their impact so that You may be glorified and Your name be praised. Amen.

Concerns of the Church

God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.

– John Wesley

- The situation remains tense in the Middle East. There had been reports that Hamas is demanding an exchange of Palestinian prisoners for the hostages they took during the 7 Oct. attack. Meanwhile the Israeli government threatens a

ground invasion to Gaza to destroy the Hamas organization and its military infrastructures, with the hostages and the Palestinian people caught in the middle. In this toxic atmosphere of mutual hate and violence, where can we find hope for peace? We turn to God for mercy and pray for guidance, knowing that peace can only come when love eventually overcomes hate.

- Tuesday 17 October was the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, which aims to promote understanding and dialogue between people living in poverty and the wider society. This year's theme draws on first-hand testimonials showing that those trapped in extreme poverty often work long, grueling hours in dangerous, unregulated conditions but still cannot earn enough income to adequately support themselves and their families. We pray for political leaders, policymakers, and business executives to use human dignity as the guiding compass in all decision-making processes, to ensure the advancement of fundamental human rights and social justice over the pursuit of corporate profits.
- India's Supreme Court has declined to legalise same-sex unions, dashing the hopes of millions of LGBTQ+ people seeking marriage equality. The court instead accepted the government's offer to set up a panel to consider granting more legal rights and benefits to same-sex couples. The chief justice suggested directions to the government, asking them to ensure the end of all discrimination against the "queer community" and to protect them from harassment and violence. Activists and same-sex couples said they were disappointed by the judgement and would continue their campaign.
- In HK, the Court of Appeal upheld a ruling that it is discriminatory and unconstitutional for the Housing

Authority to bar tenants from registering their same-sex partner as family members of their public rental housing flats or subsidized flats, or becoming an eligible resident of those flats. The lawyer representing the gay couple who filed the review said: "Discrimination not only causes sexual minorities to suffer significant legal and economic injustice, but also often causes irreversible psychological trauma to them." We pray that governments all over the world take proactive action to respect fundamental human rights, including the right to be free from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

- Police arrested two more suspects linked to the fast-growing case of alleged fraud and money-laundering involving more than HK\$1.5 billion in assets, bringing the total of arrests to 20. As the economy in China and Hong Kong stagnates, there is a steep rise in frauds and we pray that authorities take appropriate measure to protect our finances from this and no doubt other scams to come. At the same time, we need to stay vigilant ourselves and be wary of get rich quick schemes that shamelessly prey on our gullibility in this time of financial stress.
- An elite kindergarten in Kowloon Tong and a well-known secondary school in mid levels have announced their closure in 3 years' time. This seems to herald a wave of school closure caused partly by the dwindling birth rate, but also by the rise in emigration especially amongst the young to middle-aged professional class with families. This trend seems to be growing according to a recent survey of middle tier professionals which says that over 50% of their respondents have either started process for emigration or are actively planning. We pray for the leaders of Hong Kong to try to understand the real and pressing concerns of Hong Kong people including the economy, the rule of law,

and the freedom of press, and find effective ways to address the concerns.

For the Congregation

- Pray for the renovation of the church and safety of the workers.
- Pastor's Maggie's treatment has gone well so far. Thanks be to God and you all who have kept praying for her. May God's healing grace continue to dwell upon her fully.
- 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 Revd. Kwok Nai Wang. We remember those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in The Caribbean.

We are **thankful** for:

- the natural beauty, climate, and distinctive cultural practices of these islands
- how churches have responded to disasters and served all in need
- how liberation from colonialism and oppression has been pursued through music, words and actions
- the leaders of the ecumenical movement who have come from this region.

We **pray** for:

- those devastated by disasters, that their lives, communities and eco-systems might be rebuilt

- the strengthening of all who faithfully witness through word and deed to the gospel
- all those affected by crime and addictions
- good governance and smooth transitions between political leaders.

Announcements

Today - A warm welcome to all who join our worship this morning. Please stay and join the tea & coffee fellowship after the service.

Council Meeting at 1:30 pm in Upper Fellowship Hall

This Week's Programs in Church

Tuesday – Peacemaking Fellowship at 10am in KUCspace

Wednesday – Harambe Choir Practice– 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 29 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 22 October	NEXT WEEK 29 October
Liturgist:	Rey Asis	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Phyllis Wong	Grace Bok
Pianist:	Lucy Lim	Jessica Tso
Lector:	Anjenette Bolanos	Guy Syrette
Intercessory Prayers:	Robert Lam	Kenneth Ku
Family Talk:	Chan Beng Seng	Lydia Cathedral
Greeter:	Paul Wong Rachel Wangari	Tory Caplan
Offering Rota:	Daddy Journaliz Badon	Mercy Matilda Caden Lam
Counting Rota	Ramon Bultron Jennifer Chan	Paul Wong Rey Asis
Sunday School Leaders:	Gabi Baumgartner Mary Adesina	Mary Adesina Gabi Baumgartner
I.T. Team:	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur
<p>Freewill offering last week: HK\$3,240.50- Promissory offering last week: HK\$800-</p>		