

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



**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

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* HYMN** "Sing A New Song Unto the Lord" – Composer: Daniel Schutte

**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** "Great is Your Faithfulness"

– Music: W. M. Runyan; Words: T. O. Chisholm

**SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

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

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

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

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

**And bear much fruit for Your glory.**

**HYMN** "Beauty for Brokenness"

– Composer: Graham Kendrick

**FAMILY TALK**

**SERMON** "Turn to God from Idols"

## \* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

### THE OFFERTORY

#### CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

#### MISSION MOMENT

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL RESPOND** “Ubi Caritas” (Where there is charity, there is love) – Taizé

#### OFFERTORY

#### THE PEACE

\* **HYMN** “Walls That Divide” – Music: R Klusmeier; Words: W Farquharson

\* **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

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### 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. <https://forms.gle/pT1EBDs7oPYiLhG48>



### **Extra-ordinary General Meeting - EGM**

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

	<b>TODAY</b> <b>22 October</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK</b> <b>29 October</b>
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
Freewill offering last week: HK\$3,240.50- Promissory offering last week: HK\$800-		