

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



**Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost**  
**29 October 2023**  
**Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.**  
**(\*: Congregation Stands)**

### APPROACH

**PREPARATION SONG** "Holy Spirit Come" – Taizé

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* HYMN** "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

– Music: Anon/Tomlin; Lyrics John Newton/Chris Tomlin

**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** "Bring Many Names"

– Music: Carlton Young; Words: Brian Wren

**SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

Matthew 22: 34-46 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

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

**HYMN** "Let There Be Love"

– Composer: Dave Bilbrough

**FAMILY TALK**

**SERMON** "Love God and Love Others"

## \* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

### 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** "God In Your Grace" – Music: P. Harling ; Words: Shirley Murray

\* **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

\*\*\*

### Concerns of the Church

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

- While the siege in Gaza seems to have relaxed a little bit with some aids getting through from the Egyptian border with Gaza, the World Food Programme warns that the current aid is not enough to ease the dire humanitarian crisis unfolding. At the time of writing, the threatened ground invasion by Israeli forces has been stalled while efforts have been underway to free hostages. However, although we had heard good news that several hostages have been released, but there was also report of the death of another hostage. Thus the situation in the Middle East is still severe and warrants our attention and concern. We pray that the world does not become immune to the suffering in the region due to bad news-fatigue, and we pray that leaders on both sides put people's lives and wellbeing on the top of their priorities.
- 24 October was the World Development Information Day which was established in 1972 by the United Nations General Assembly. The aim is to draw the attention of world public opinion each year to development problems and the necessity of strengthening international co-operation to solve them. We pray that all countries, especially wealthy nations, recognize that sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth is crucial and should be beneficial for everyone, with employment creation and social development as pillars of healthy growth in the world economy.
- The Prime Minister of Iceland has declared that she will refuse to work on Tuesday, so called the "kvennafri", or women's day off, in support of a protest at the gender pay gap and gender-based violence in the country. Iceland has been ranked the best country in the world for gender equality by the World Economic Forum (WEF) for 14 years in a row. But the country is not completely equal, with the WEF assigning it an overall score of 91.2%. Thus while Iceland is already ranked first in gender equality, it is not complacent nor satisfied and continues to strive for true equality. We pray that other countries follow this example and strive to tackle inequality of any forms, not just gender-inequality, in their countries.
- Scientists warn that melting in West Antarctica, a region which includes the "Doomsday Glacier" that threatens the globe with severe sea level rise, could be inevitable in the future due to warming oceans. Loss of ice in West Antarctica has been prevalent this

year. In February, Antarctic sea ice reached its lowest ever recorded level. In October the ozone hole over Antarctica grew to one of the largest on record. We pray that world leaders step up their efforts to tackle the problem of global warming which is already having grave impact on extreme weather around the world.

- On Tuesday, the Court of Appeal upheld a lower court decision that same-sex couples should enjoy equal rights under the city's two inheritance laws. In a statement published after Tuesday's ruling, NGO Hong Kong Marriage Equality said the exclusion of same-sex couples from the marriage system was "not only discriminatory but also an affront to their dignity and well-being." We pray that the community at large would follow the lead set by the court to recognise discrimination inherent in our legislations and/or practices and help to advance justice and equal rights for all.

### **For the Congregation**

- Pray for the renovation of the church and safety of the workers.
- Thanks be to God and you all for praying for Pastor Maggie. Her treatment has been going well. May God's healing grace continue to be upon her for full recovery.
- 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 Canada and the United States of America.

We are **thankful** for:

- the vast expanse of North America with its resources and varied landscapes; may they be preserved, enjoyed and used wisely
- those who are its original inhabitants – First Nations and Native Americans
- church-related organizations that strongly advocate for justice, and those that provide for new immigrants and refugees today, as well as for others who are poor and vulnerable
- ecumenical and interfaith engagements which are occurring in many communities that previously were mainly white and Christian.

We **pray** for:

- churches facing new challenges, that they may continue to witness boldly to the gospel in evolving multicultural, multi-religious and secular contexts
- indigenous peoples in their long struggles for survival, land and rights; and for ongoing healing and reconciliation with those who have come after them
- new immigrants, that they will continue to be welcomed in these countries, and that policies will serve the common good
- effectively countering systemic greed that exploits communities and natural resources
- U.S. communities suffering from unrelenting gun violence with over 500 mass shootings so far in 2023; may government leaders and Congress do everything necessary to enact sensible gun control laws now to protect everyone in the society, especially the most vulnerable.

## Announcements

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

**A big thank you** to Revd Grace Bok, the Minister of One Body In Christ, to share the Word of God with us this morning.

### **Hiking to the Peak**

The Hike to the Peak will be postponed until further notice.

### **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*

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

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

#### **Interfaith Exposure Trip on 19 November**

The Christian Education Committee invites you to attend at Day of Mindfulness at the Asian Institute of Applied Buddhism (Plum Village) on Sunday 19 November. The day will be facilitated by the Monks of Plum Village on Lantau Island and involve participation in several mindfulness practices. We wish to learn more about another faith community and as we deepen our connection to God through centering practices. If you would like to learn more, you can go to <https://www.pvfhk.org/activities/dom/sunday-lotus-pond> or contact Pastor Phyllis or John Mok-Lamme. More details will be announced next week.

	<b>TODAY 29 October</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK 5 November</b>
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Grace Bok	Peng Yin
Pianist:	Jessica Tso	Lucy Lim
Lector:	Guy Syrette	Tory Caplan
Intercessory Prayers:	Kenneth Ku	Paul Lucas
Family Talk:	Lydia Cathedral	Rey Asis
Greeter:	Tory Caplan Ching So	Paul Wong Chris Law
Offering Rota:	Mercy Matilda Caden Lam	Rose Muriri Kisakye Lisa
Counting Rota	Paul Wong Rey Asis	Jennifer Chan Robert Lam
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina Jailyn Tomitis	Mary Adesina Jailyn Tomitis
I.T. Team:	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur
Freewill offering last week: HK\$4,644.50- Promissory offering last week: HK\$2,500- Retiring Offering: HK\$1,515-		