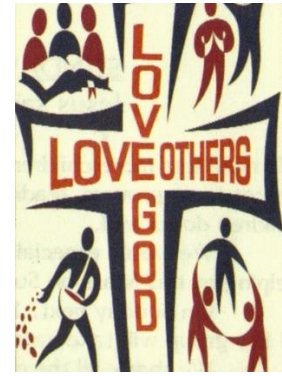


Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

29 October 2023

Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation Stands)



APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG “Holy Spirit Come” – Taizé

Holy Spirit, come to us,

kindle in us the fire of your love.

Holy Spirit, come to us, Holy Spirit come to us. --||--

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

All: from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

L: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

All: from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

L: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

All: from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

L: Lord, you are God of the past, of the present and of the future!

All: We adore you and praise for your everlasting life and love.

*** HYMN “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”**

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

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love
Amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine
You are forever mine
--||--

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful and gracious God,

We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned against you by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not always had in us the mind of Christ. You know how often we have been stubborn to our own ways, by walking away from your path of truth, by forgetting your love.

Forgive us, free us from our sins with the amazing grace of Jesus Christ. Renew in us the love and strength of your Holy Spirit, Amen.

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** “Bring Many Names”

– Music: Carlton Young; Words: Brian Wren

Bring many names, beautiful and good,
Celebrate, in parable and story,
Holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
Calmly piercing evil’s new disguises,
Glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
Saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
Crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,
Joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
Closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!

--||--

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

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

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35 and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

37 He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the greatest and first commandment.

39 And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 42 “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.”

43 He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 44 ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet”’?”

45 If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?”

46 No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN “Let There Be Love” – Composer: Dave Bilbrough

Let There Be Love Shared Among Us,
Let There Be Love In Our Eyes,
May Now Your Love Sweep This Nation,
Cause Us Oh Lord To Arise.

Give Us A Fresh Understanding
Of a Love That Is Real,
Let There Be Love Shared Among Us,
Let There Be Love.

Let There Be Love Shared Among Us,
Let There Be Love In Our Eyes,
May Now Your Love Sweep This Nation,
Cause Us Oh Lord To Arise.

Give Us A Fresh Understanding
Of a Love That Is Real,
Let There Be Love Shared Among Us,
Let There Be Love.

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FAMILY TALK

SERMON “Love God and Love Others”

*** 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

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

--||--

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

*** HYMN "God In Your Grace"**

– Music: P. Harling ; Words: Shirley Murray

Love is Your way

Love is Your nature

Blessing each creature

Lighting each day

Grace is Your sign

Gift of forgiveness

Chalice that changes

Water to wine

Pathways we choose
Undeserved freedom
Earth as our kingdom
Still we abuse
Much we have done
Gross human error
Misuse of power
Darkness the sun

God in Your grace
God in Your mercy
Turn us to You
To transform the world

Terror and tears
Wounds without healing
Hearts without feeling
Mirror our fears
Life without trust
Greed and high prices
Conflict and crises
Grind us to dust

Let us stand still
Look at each other
Sister and brother
Thwarting Your will

Teach us good care
Grace to seek pardon
Reclaim Your garden
Riches to share

God in Your grace
God in Your mercy
Turn us to You
To transform the world
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* 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 today

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.

	TODAY 29 October	NEXT WEEK 5 November
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:	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur
<p>Freewill offering last week: HK\$4,644.50- Promissory offering last week: HK\$2,500- Retiring Offering: HK\$1,515-</p>		