

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-Third Sunday After Pentecost 5 November 2023

Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

World Communion Sunday

(*: Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

SONG OF PREPARATION "Be Still and Know"

– Composer: Anonymous

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

* **HYMN** "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

– Composer: Joachim Neander

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND "Kyrie Eleison" (Lord, have mercy)

– Traditional Orthodox

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

HYMN "Blessed Assurance"

– Music: Phoebe Knapp; Words: Fanny Crosby

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 43 (O.T.)

Matthew 23:1-12 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "Misrecognizing God: How My Mind Has Changed?"

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL RESPOND "O Lord, Hear Our Prayer"

– Composer: Taizé

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

KUC SINGERS “As Bread That is Broken” – Composers: C Cloninger & P Baloché

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD’S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

* **HYMN** “Inspired by Love and Anger” – Composer: John Bell, Graham Maule

* **COMMISSION/BLESSING**

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CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

- Today, 5 November, is celebrated across the UK as Guy Fawkes night, or Bonfire Night. The day commemorates the foiling of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605 which intended to blow up the King and the House of Lords. In the past the event was a day to reinforce anti-Catholic sentiment and the power of the Protestant state. However, today the festival has largely lost its religious and political connotations. Instead, it has become an evening to gather with friends and families around a fire whilst watching firework displays. But it is also important for us to use this occasion to think about conflict in general, especially in light of the continuing Israel-Hamas war and other conflicts around the world, to think about what causes unrest and how cycles of communal violence can be ended, how could disputes have been avoided? In order to end conflicts, we have to understand its causes, which requires empathy on both sides. We pray for the day when people around the world can join hand in hand and celebrate around a fire that brings us together rather than apart.
- Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by consuming contaminated food or water. It is cheap to treat with rehydration salts, and easy to avoid altogether if people have access to clean water. Unfortunately, many countries around the world still suffer greatly from this disease due to poverty and poor public health education. Recently, political and economic crisis in Zimbabwe has led to outbreaks around the country starting as early ago as February and have already recorded over 6,000 cases and over one hundred deaths, simply because the country lacks clean water. We pray that the newly elected government of Zimbabwe can deliver on its electoral promise to invest in infrastructure for clean water supply and help battle to stem the spread of deadly cholera in its cities and villages.
- Chinese-born Australian writer Yang Jun has been detained in China since 2019, accused of spying in a closed trial heavily criticised by human rights activists. His health has rapidly deteriorated as a large cyst grows on his kidney, and his family now fears he will be “left to die” in detention and is appealing to the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to raise their father’s plight on his trip to Beijing. His closed-door trial was heard in Beijing in mid-2021, with Yang still awaiting the

verdict. We pray for his health and for justice and fair treatment for all journalists around the world who face constant threats and dangers in their important role in covering news and reports in all corners of the world which is vital for providing independent and verifiable facts presented in a meaningful context that facilitate debate and help reach good decisions.

- The University of Hong Kong has announced that it will be holding the annual China-California Bay-to-Bay climate forum in Hong Kong in 2024. This will be a landmark climate change forum bringing together experts from the technology-driven bay areas of San Francisco and the Greater Bay area in mainland China, underscoring the city's role as a bridge for cooperation amid geopolitical tensions. We pray that this climate gathering would help Hong Kong policy makers understand how innovation and technology drive economic growth while protecting our environment and provide lessons to empower universities to advance research and apply practical solutions to benefit humankind.
- Fewer than 30 per cent of the world's research scientists are women. Thus it is refreshing to note that in its 20th anniversary, three renowned female scientists associated with the Shaw Prize had been interviewed by a local newspaper to reveal how they have established successful careers in their chosen areas of expertise, despite challenges that come from being women working in fields dominated by men. While they acknowledged that the situation has improved, we still need to strive for gender equality so as to allow every talent and potential to be fulfilled, irrespective of gender, class, or any other man-made barriers/labels that stifle personal growth and development.

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. For Mrs Samuel, Revd Bud Carroll, Hend, Jeanette Lee, Kevin Ng, Ng Kam Lee and Joy Babasa. 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 Oceania: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

We are **thankful** for:

- the amazing diversity of people and cultures living on the islands of Oceania
- the magnificent natural scenery and sea life
- the strong, faithful presence of churches in these lands
- the stories and bold witness to the impact of climate change, reminding the rest of the world that we are all in the same 'boat' on this planet, 70 percent of which is covered by the ocean.

We **pray** for:

- efforts to preserve these island nations in the midst of rising seas
- those adversely affected by earthquakes, volcanoes and cyclones
- those dealing with the legacy of past nuclear weapons testing and with garbage dumping today

- good governance – especially in preserving indigenous cultures –which effectively serves those who are impoverished, hungry, lacking education or unable to make a living.

Announcements

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

Thank you - Dr. Peng Yin for sharing the Word of God with us this morning. Dr. Yin is the Asst. Prof. of Ethics at Boston University School of Theology focusing on Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Dr. Yin was born in Inner Mongolia and came to faith while studying at Hong Kong Baptist University. He pursued his graduate studies at Yale Divinity School and more recently completed his PhD at Harvard University.

Extra-ordinary General Meeting - EGM

The EGM will be today at 1:30pm, for the approval of budget 2024.

Dates for your Diary

Interfaith Exposure Trip on 19 November – 9:30 am to 5pm

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. Gathering time is 8:00 am in Tung Chung Station. Please register with the link before 12 noon, 17 Nov https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewrrtPdD-TdkW58IAvttA3pn_3czc8yjAjNIN4Dy9JITsYw/viewform or scan QR Code.

	TODAY 5 November
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Peng Yin
Pianist:	Han Inkyu
Lector:	Tory Caplan
Intercessory Prayers:	Paul Lucas
Family Talk:	Rey Asis
Greeter:	Paul Wong Chris Law
Offering Rota:	Rose Muriri Kisakye Lisa
Counting Rota	Jennifer Chan Chan Beng Seng
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$3,629.50-
Promissory offering last week: HK\$600-