

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

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am God

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*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

God the Creator,

We adore you!

God the Redeemer,

We love you!

God the Holy Spirit,

We embrace you!

* **HYMN** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

– Composer: Joachim Neander

Praise to the Lord the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul praise Him, for He is your health and
salvation.

Come all who hear, brothers and sisters draw near,
Praise him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper our work and
defend us;
surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend us

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
as with his love he befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises
before Him.

Let the Amen sound from His people again
gladly for all we adore Him.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: When we fail to see your will and we walk in our own way.

All: Loving God, forgive us.

L: When we forget you and worship the world but not you.

All: Merciful God, forgive us.

L: When we refuse to love and instead to add burden to others

All: Compassionate God, forgive us.

L: Holy Spirit comes to cleanse us and transform us.

All: God of eternal life and love, strengthen us to

walk in the loving and righteous way of Jesus

Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

Amen.

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

– Traditional Orthodox

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

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ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus said, "I came to give life and a life in full."

The good news is that Christ did not come to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be redeemed and renewed."

He is the one who declares to those who come to him in faith: "Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace."

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God

Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood

This is my story, this is my song

Praising my Savior all the day long

This is my story, this is my song

Praising my Savior all the day long

Perfect submission, perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
Praising my Savior all the day long

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
Praising my Savior all the day long

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SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 43 (O.T.)

1 Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly people;
from those who are deceitful and unjust
deliver me!

**2 For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you cast me off?**

**Why must I walk about mournfully
because of the oppression of the enemy?**

3 O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.

**4 Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.**

5 Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

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

23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,
2 ‘The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat;
3 therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it;
but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what
they teach. 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear,
and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they
themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them.
5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they
make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long.
6 They love to have the place of honour at banquets
and the best seats in the synagogues,
7 and to be greeted with respect in the market-places,
and to have people call them rabbi.
8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one
teacher, and you are all students.
9 And call no one your father on earth, for you have
one Father—the one in heaven.
10 Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have
one instructor, the Messiah.
11 The greatest among you will be your servant.
12 All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all
who humble themselves will be exalted.

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**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 into hell.**

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

ALL RESPOND “O Lord, Hear Our Prayer”

– Composer: Taizé

O Lord, hear our prayer;

O Lord, hear our prayer;

when we call answer us.

O Lord, hear our prayer,

O Lord, hear our prayer;

come and listen to us

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OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

KUC SINGERS “As Bread That is Broken”

– Composers: C Cloninger & P Baloché

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with us

We rejoice in God's Presence.

We lift up our hearts.

We lift our hearts to the Lord.

We give thanks to God,

who creates and sustains all things.

Loving God

In the fullness of time you gave us Jesus Christ,

Who entered into the world as your servant,

To heal,

To liberate,

To proclaim the Good News of your kin-dom.

As a sign of God's presence among us, our Lord Jesus prepared a meal of bread and wine, a celebration,

of life over death

of love over fear

of union over separation.

Christ lives in us,

and we in Christ,

In Christ we are set free :

a new creation.

Confirmed for us in bread and wine,

a meal of jubilation.

With all your Church throughout the world
we offer you our praise and lift our voice
to join the everlasting song of heaven:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might

Heaven and Earth are full of Your Glory;

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

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.

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*** HYMN “Inspired by Love and Anger”**

– Composer: John Bell, Graham Maule

Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,
Informed of God’s own bias we ask him once again:
“How long must some folk suffer? How long can few
folk mind?
How long dare vain self interest turn prayer and pity
blind?”

From those forever victims of heartless human greed,
Their cruel plight composes a litany of need:
“Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of
peace?
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their
release?”

To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a
different age,
We offer earth’s indifference, its agony and rage:
“When will the wronged be righted? When will the
kingdom come?
When will the world be generous to all instead of
some?”

God asks, “Who will go for me? Who will extend my
reach?
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and
preach?
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they
know?
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I
show?”

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*** COMMISSION/BLESSING**

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-TdkW58IAvtA3pn_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-