

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-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
12 November 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
(*: Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Lead Me Lord" – Composer: S.S. Wesley

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** "Inspired by Love and Anger"

– Music: Trad Folk; Lyrics John L Bell

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND "Change My Heart" – Composer: Eddie Espinosa

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

HARAMBE CHOIR

"Comment Ne Pas Te Louer?" – "How Can I Not Praise You?"
& "Tungamira" – "Lead Us"

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 70 (O.T.)

Amos 5: 18 – 24 (O.T.)

Matthew 25: 1 - 13 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

FAMILY TALK

SERMON “Together Towards Justice”

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – CHRISTIAN AID**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND “O Lord, Hear Our Prayer”

– Taizé

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

*** HYMN** “Community of Christ ” – Music: Leoni; Words: Shirley Murray

*** COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Concerns of the Church

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

- The Israel-Hamas war continues with no end in sight. More and more horrific images surface graphically showing death and destruction caused by both sides of the conflict, and Gaza meanwhile has been turned into what a BBC journalist described as a wasteland. People around the world are being galvanized into more and more extreme opposition groups. We pray that people and their leaders around the world not to be blindsided by rage and the need for revenge, the further apart people become in their positions, the more we need to turn to our God for calm and inner peace, only then can there be hope for the love that is in all humanity to eventually overcome fear and hate.
- Musicians in Belarus have been given long jail terms as part of authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko’s internal crackdown on dissent. Their sentences have been condemned as "an unprecedented prison sentence for creativity", and the situation seems to be getting worse. It has been reported that between January to June, there have already been 925 cases of human rights violations, including censorship and denying the right to a fair trial in the country. We pray for justice and protection of basic human rights, including the right for free artistic expression in Belarus and everywhere, knowing that while music can be silenced in some courts, but never in our hearts.
- This week is Inter Faith week, conceived in 2008 by the Inter Faith Network (UK), and is intended to build understanding between different faith groups to reinforce the values of understanding, compassion, multiculturalism and tolerance that form the building blocks of strong, flourishing communities. We are thankful for the diversity in our church and in our communities and pray that we continue to gain better understanding and celebrate how this enriches our lives.
- Chief Executive John Lee announced in his annual Policy Address last month that the government would offer HK\$20,000 to new parents. The move is an attempt to boost Hong Kong’s low birth rate and address the city’s ageing population. We pray that the Government would probe reasons that deterred couples from having more children

including gender inequality, long working hours, a lack of childcare options, substandard living spaces, as well as political events in recent years which prompted some to consider leaving HK and putting off plans to potentially have children.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia.

- the beauty of the land and waters of Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia, and the special relationship that people enjoy with the natural environment
- the identities and cultural practices that indigenous peoples long have maintained, and for their increasing political voice
- how the people have welcomed new immigrants
- how churches have witnessed and worked together ecumenically, especially amid challenges of apathy in highly secularized societies.

We **pray** for:

- churches to have the imagination, skills and energy to build bridges of understanding in increasingly multireligious and multicultural contexts
- those who work tirelessly on issues of justice for the poor, the marginalized and the dispossessed, especially indigenous peoples
- those seeking refuge and a new life in these countries, and those supporting and providing for them
- careful preservation of the fragile land, sea, and resources.

For the Congregation

- We are thankful for a smooth and fruitful EGM held last Sunday to discuss and endorse the 2024 budget. May we all remember the needs of the church as we celebrating the church's 100th anniversary, and let us be a good steward to make contributions and church leaders to use the budget wisely for God's sake.
- We are grateful to see the treatment of Pastor Maggie has been going well. May God's healing grace continue to be upon her for full recovery.
- Pray for those who are facing health challenges and that require restoration of body strength: Paul Wong, Kevin Ng, Revd Bud, Jeanette Lee, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau and Joy Babasa. We continue to remember our senior members and friends: Mrs Samuel, the mothers of Alex Melwani and Sunita Suna. May God heal the sick and give strength to those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.

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 – Representatives from the HK Campaign for Human Rights and Peace in the Philippines, for leading the worship and sharing with us messages and human rights situations in the Philippines. May we remember and pray for justice and peace in the country, and God's protection for the human rights activities.

Dates for your Diary

Evening Prayers for Peace in Israel & Palestine

You are welcome to join the Evening Prayers coorganized by KUC, OBIC & UCCP on 18 Nov (Sat), 8pm @ KUC Fellowship Hall. Lo Yuk Fai is invited to share and update us about the situation in the region. The format will be Taizé chant, lighting candles, sharing, intercessions.

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 16 Nov https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewrrtPdD-TdkW58IAvtA3pn_3czc8yjAjNIN4Dy9JITsYw/viewform or scan QR Code.

Tapestry Workshop – 1:30 -3:30 pm, 19 Nov

Workshop organized by the Care & Fellowship Committee to help you to design and or complete your piece of artwork for the KUC's Centenary Celebration! Faciliator: Pastor Maggie.

Movie Sunday organized by MOE Committee : 26 November – 1:30 – 3:30 pm

“Sister” - 90-minute film A documentary about the life and work of death penalty abolitionist, Sister Helen Prejean. The film examines her life and influences, and delves into the evolving role of Catholic nuns in America. A poignant piece, it follows Sister Helen (best selling author of *Dead Man Walking*) as she counsels and fights for the stay of execution of Oklahoma death row inmate Richard Glossip.

	TODAY 12 November	NEXT WEEK 19 November
Liturgist:	Lydia Catedral	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Amber Tong, Joy Prim, Lydia Catedral	Judy Chan
Pianist:	Katie Ho	Jessica Tso
Lector:	Tarie Nyamudeza	Ronald Chui
Intercessory Prayers:	Tarie Nyamudeza	Ramon Bultron
Family Talk:	Tiffany Wong	Lydia Catedral
Greeter:	Edwina Antonio Emmanuel Adesina	Lucy Lim Caden Lam
Offering Rota:	Thapa Sanjhane Journaliz Badon	Anjenette Bolanos Susan Babasa
Counting Rota	Edwina Antonio Gabi Baumgartner	Paul Wong Ramon Bultron
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina Gabi Baumgartner	Mary Adesina Gabi Baumgartner
I.T. Team:	Bervinder Kaur	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur
Freewill offering last week: HK\$4,519- Promissory offering last week: HK\$8,410-		