

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



## **APPROACH**

### **PREPARATION SONG “Lead Me Lord”**

– Composer: S.S. Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,  
make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,  
that makest me dwell in safety. (x2)

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### **\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Just and merciful God, you speak through the prophets,  
challenging us to seek peace rooted in justice.

**All: Help us to hear your urgent call.**

Loving God, in Jesus you change our lives for good,  
challenging us to work for reconciliation.

**Help us to see your way of truth and love.**

With-us God, your Holy Spirit moves us to action,  
challenging us to live the Good News.

**Help us to respond wholeheartedly,  
here and now – to say Yes! Amen!**

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

– Music: Trad Folk; Lyrics John L Bell

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?"

From those forever shackled to what their wealth can buy,

The fear of lost advantage provoke the bitter cry:

"Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!

Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!"

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?"

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## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: Holy God You called all that is into being And offered  
humanity life in all its fullness. Yet we have allowed good  
relationships to be broken. We have become distant from you  
And our neighbour.

**All: Lord have mercy**

At times we have failed to speak out for justice Leaving the  
voiceless without an advocate

**Christ have mercy**

To all who fall short of God's glory you offer pardon and peace

**Lord have mercy**

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

Change my heart oh God

Make it ever true

Change my heart oh God

May I be like You

You are the potter

I am the clay

Mold me and make me

This is what I pray

Change my heart oh God

Make it ever true

Change my heart oh God

May I be like You

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## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God is just and forgiving. God receives us as we are, lifts us up and calls us again to be people upholding justice and peace receive God's pardon and peace knowing that our sins are forgiven

**Thanks be to God!**

## **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.)

**1Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O LORD, make haste to help me!**

**2Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.**

**3Let those who say, “Aha, Aha!” turn back because of their shame.**

**4Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”**

**5But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!**

Amos 5: 18 – 24 (O.T.)

18 Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; 19 as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.

20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.

23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. 24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

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

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;

4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept.

6 But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then all those

bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

9 But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ 10 And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.

11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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**

One: We believe that God hopes and works for a world where all shall be included in the feast of life, and that in Christ we see how costly it is to bring that world about.



**All: We believe that God's strategy for a new world is to put the poorest first, and that nothing is more important for God's people than to bring the poor good news.**

We believe that rich and poor alike can be generous, wise and creative because all are made in God's image, and that all are made poorer when they are left out.

**We confess that we use our strength to protect ourselves and order the world to benefit the rich and not the poor, and that none of us can be trusted with too much power over others.**

We believe that loving our neighbours means working for justice, so that all have a say in what happens to them.

**We believe that God made the good earth to sustain and delight us, and that we are called to take care of it and enjoy it.**

We believe that the God of all the earth is at work  
beyond the churches as well as within them,  
making common cause with all who want the poor  
to be included.

**We long for the time  
when the meek shall inherit the earth  
and all who hunger and thirst after justice  
shall be satisfied,  
and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil,  
now is always the time  
when more good can be done  
and we can make a difference.**

## **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** "O Lord, Hear Our Prayer" — Taizé

O Lord, hear our prayer,  
O Lord, hear our prayer;  
when I call answer us.

O Lord, hear our prayer,  
O Lord, hear our prayer;  
come and listen to us. (x2) --||--

## **OFFERTORY**

## **THE PEACE**

\* **HYMN** “Community of Christ ”

– Music: Leoni; Words: Shirley Murray

Community of Christ,  
who make the Cross your own,  
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:  
the God who wears your face,  
to whom all worlds belong,  
whose children are of every race  
and every song.

Community of Christ,  
look past the Church's door  
and see the refugee, the hungry,  
and the poor.  
Take hands with the oppressed,  
the jobless in your street,  
take towel and water, that you wash  
your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ,  
through whom the word must sound --  
cry out for justice and for peace  
the whole world round:  
disarm the powers that war  
and all that can destroy,  
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish  
into joy.

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## \* **COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

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### 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.
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### **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->

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**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.

	<b>TODAY 12 November</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK 19 November</b>
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-		