

Kowloon Union Church
“Where all are one”
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Secretary: Heddy Ha
Social Ministry Worker: Timothy Chan
Minister: Maggie Mathieson
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



**Second Sunday in Advent
6 December 2020 at 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion Service**

(* : Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

ADVENT CANDLE LITANY – CANDLE OF PEACE

SONG OF PREPARATION “Light Of Hope Ignite In Us”

– Music: Timothy Chan, Lyrics: M Mathieson

CALL TO WORSHIP

* **HYMN** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

– Music: R H Prichard. Words: Charles Wesley

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND “Change My Heart O God” – Composer: Eddie Espinosa

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

* **HYMN** “Comfort, Comfort All My People”

– Words and Music: R Mann

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Isaiah 40:1-11 (O.T.)

Mark 1:1-8 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

SERMON “Home for Christmas”

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL RESPOND “I waited I waited On The Lord”

– Music: WGRC, The Iona Community

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

HYMN “Come Now, O Prince Of Peace”

– Tune: O-SO-SO; Lyrics: Yi Kōn-yong, Paraphraser: Marion Pope

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

* **HYMN** “Christ, Be Our Light” – Composer: Bernadette Farrell

* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

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CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

For the World and Hong Kong

- Yesterday, 5 December, is United Nations World Soil Day. May we be reminded of the fragile nature of our soil and how important it is to manage and sustain the biodiversity of our soil so as to maintain healthy ecosystems. We remember the biblical story in Genesis in which human beings were called to take care of the wonderful Garden of Eden that the Lord has made. We pray for God's guidance to shoulder our responsibility to take good care of our Earth for all to enjoy instead of exploiting it to profit just an elite few.
- The situation in Ethiopia is grim as the fighting continues and more and more people have to flee from their homes because of violence and reported massacres, the UNHCR estimates that there are now as many as 100,000 refugees. We pray for the safety of the people and we pray for restraint from both sides of the fighting, that their leaders put the wellbeing of the people above their political agendas. We pray for reconciliation and a return to peace.
- Tensions have risen in the Middle East where an Iranian nuclear scientist was assassinated in cold blood last Sunday, apparently a violent attempt to suppress the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We pray for peace in the region and for political leaders to find the wisdom and goodwill to build dialogue and work towards mutual peace and prosperity for the people.

- The fourth wave of Covid-19 cases continue to rise and has led to further tightening of social distancing measures, including suspending physical Sunday worship services in churches. We continue to pray for all safety and wellbeing of the frontline healthcare workers, and we also remember all the people whose jobs had been affected by the pandemic and how their livelihoods are being devastated by the social restrictions and the loss in income. We look to God as our guardian and saviour, giving us peace, comfort and inner strength during these vulnerable and difficult times. We have heard promising news of vaccine breakthroughs and that the most at-risk groups will have access to the vaccines from BioNTech in the UK next week, and that access to the vaccines will be made available to more and more countries very soon. May God oversee their fair distribution in Hong Kong and other parts of the world so that the most vulnerable will have access in a timely manner.
- Winter is approaching and the temperature has dropped sharply in the past few days. We pray that everyone is well prepared for the cold season and we particularly remember the homeless and pray that they have adequate shelter, food and clothing to stay warm and stay healthy.
- We pray for the activists young and old who have been advocating for democracy and freedom in Hong Kong, were arrested without bail or jailed in Hong Kong. May God keep them strong and His justice reign.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

- We lift up in prayer today the churches and people of all faiths of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

For the Congregation

- Pray for the recruitment of the Social Ministry Worker's position, who will be responsible for the church's Social Ministries especially the Peace-Making Ministry. We greatly appreciate Timothy's services to the church especially the peace-making ministry in the past five years. We pray that God will continue to guide him as he moves on in his life journey.
- We rejoice with brother Aimé for his wife Madame Jeanine was recently ordained as pastor in their home country in Africa. May God's grace and peace be with Jeanine and family to give her strength to serve.
- Remember and pray for friends who are facing life challenges.
- Pray for Tong a safe journey to UK visiting his family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome

Welcome all who join the Sunday Worship through Facebook live streaming today. We are saddened that the latest wave of COVID-19 cases has forced a tightening of social distancing rules. Let us continue to observe the pre-cautionary measures to ensure personal and public health safety. Stay alert and keep a peaceful heart. We pray for a speedy return to face to face worship in the church very soon.

A Note of Thanks

We are very thankful to Revd Bud Carroll to share God's Word with us. Bud will be going back to the United States for good. May God protect his coming in and going out. May the light of Christ shine upon him and keep him joyful always.

Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM)

During the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on 15 November, the congregation requested the Council and Trustees to amend the proposed budget for 2021. Another EGM will be held on 20 December to approve the revised budget. Please mark the date.

Celebrate the Church's New Year - Advent

We are in the second week of Advent. Advent has marked the beginning of the Church liturgical year. Before we celebrate the birth of baby Jesus at Christmas, Christians are called to prepare and wait for the coming of Christ with patience and joyful expectation. The theme for Advent this year is "Re-visiting Christ's Coming". During Advent, we will post 12 short reflections prepared by our church members on KUC's Facebook. May we all spend time to reflect on our life and faith in Christ who came to the world to save. May we be more like Christ and walk in His way of truth.

Christmas Celebration

- 24th December: Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m.
- 25th December: Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion at 11 am. It will be a joint service with One Body In Christ Church and UCCP.
- With tightening of social distancing rules, we are not certain if we can worship in person. In all circumstance, let us keep Christ at the centre of Christmas.

| | TODAY | NEXT WEEK 13 December |
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| Liturgist: | Phyllis Wong | Timothy Chan |
| Preacher: | Bud Carroll | Maggie Mathieson |
| Pianist: | Lucy Lim | Eric Sin |
| Lector: | Maggie Mathieson | Norma Diaz |
| Intercessory Prayers: | Tong Chong Sze | Phyllis Wong |
| I.T. Team: | Lo Yuk Fai Timothy Chan | Carl Cathedral Tony Lau |

Last Sunday's offering: HK\$1,589-
Promissory offering last week: HK\$2,980-