

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



Fourth Sunday in Advent 20 December 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

ADVENT CANDLE LITANY – CANDLE OF LOVE

SONG OF PREPARATION “Light Of Hope Ignite In Us”

– Music: Chan Ka. Words: M. Mathieson

CALL TO WORSHIP

* **HYMN** “Let Us Build A House” – Words & Music: Marty Haughen

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** “He Came Down” – Trad. Cameroon

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 89:1–4 (O.T.)

Luke 1:26–38 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

* **HYMN** “Such Love” – Words & Music: Graham Kendrick

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Samuel 7:1–16 (O.T.)

SERMON

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "I Waited, I Waited on The Lord"

– Music: WGRC – The Iona Community

OFFERTORY

* **SIGN OF PEACE**

* **HYMN** "The Canticle of the Turning"

– Words: Rory Cooney. Tune: Star of the County Down

* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

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CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

For the World and Hong Kong

- December 18 is International Migrants' Day. As we commemorate this day, we remember the more than seven million migrants in Asia Pacific who have been forced to return to their countries of origin. They face the insecurity of unemployment amidst a severely lacking health- and service-oriented response to the pandemic. Amidst the many challenges, we witness and have taken part in mutual help, solidarity and cooperation initiatives to help migrants and people in need. As we pray for our migrant siblings, Lord God, we ask for your guidance as churches and peoples work hand in hand to foster solidarity, advocacy and harmony during this time of pandemic and beyond. On behalf of the community, we give thanks to thousands and thousands of foreign domestic workers who have been working very hard for many families and making tremendous contribution to the people in Hong Kong. May they be fairly and well treated and recognized.
- Hundreds of thousands of farmers all over India continue to mount protests against three farm laws: *The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce Act, 2020*; *The Farmers Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020*; and *The Essential Commodities Act, 2020*. Already receiving widespread support and solidarity from the international community, farmers' unions and associations call for the repeal of the three laws, which are said to take away state subsidies for agricultural goods, deregulate prices of basic agricultural commodities, and allow corporate control of Indian agriculture. Advancement of profit-driven laws amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, they say, will push millions of people into utter poverty and hopelessness. We pray for the upholding of the interests of farmers and peoples in India. May their voices be listened to and their demands respected and acted upon.
- In Hong Kong, in the ongoing 4th wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, we remember our middle-aged brothers and sisters, parents and grandparents, as many of them infected with the Coronavirus are fighting for their lives.

As the virus strain becomes more virulent and many patients more critically ill, we pray for God's healing hands to restore their health and protect everyone from harm. We pray for God's guidance to provide relief, support and love to distressed members of our community.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

- We lift up in prayer today the churches and people of all faiths in Japan, North Korea, South Korea, and Taiwan.

For the Congregation

- Remember and pray for our ministers and Church leaders. The Council has been undergoing an overall review of the church ministries. In light of this and restrictions on activities due to COVID, the Council decided to freeze the hiring of a new Social Ministry Worker. Please pray for the ministries of the church in the midst of changes and uncertainties.
- Due to 4th wave COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong, we are sad that we cannot go ahead with our farewell gathering with Timothy scheduled next week, on his last Sunday in church. However, we still have something arranged for him on Sunday 27 December. Additionally, we will share a link of an online bulletin board for friends to drop him words of farewell and blessings. Let us uphold Timothy in our hearts and pray that God will continue to guide him as he moves on in his life journey.
- Remember and pray for friends who are facing life and health challenges. Pray for Paul Wong for his leg to be strengthened, for good health of Peter Chan, Sandy Hung, Emad and Nasr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome

Welcome all who join the Sunday Worship through Facebook live streaming today. While social distancing measures are further tightened due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, we pray that you and your family are all safe and well in God. Please be in touch with our ministers and church leaders if you need any support from us in this challenging time.

A Note of Thanks

We are grateful to have Mr. Matt Coulson to share with us message. Matt is now working with Viva as director of operations for Asia and Executive Director for HK since 2019. Matt previously worked at KPMG as an accountant and was called into ministry, first in the Chinese church in the UK then in HK with The Vine. He is passionate about seeing children released from bondage and would say he wants to equip local people to provide local solutions to local problems.

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 TODAY to approve the revised budget. We pray for a smooth EGM today.

Christmas Celebration – via Facebook Live

- 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.
- In light of the spreading of the coronavirus in many different communities in our city, as well as the tightening of social distancing rules, we will suspend Christmas Services in Church. Instead, we will have them online at <https://www.facebook.com/kuchongkong> . Pray that although we are not meeting in person, but online (virtually), we still keep our hearts close to God and let Christ be at the centre of Christmas.

Celebrate the Church’s New Year - Advent

We are in the last week of Advent. The theme for Advent this year is “Re-visiting Christ’s Coming”. Nine short reflections prepared by our church members were posted on KUC’s Facebook in the past three weeks and they are very well received. Another three will be coming up. May the Advent devotional materials help us 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.

Advent Letter on the National Security Law (NSL)

In the season of Advent, the Church has issued a letter drafted by the MOE Committee, to friends both from KUC and outside, to share the message of hope and peace in our worried and disturbed city of Hong Kong after the NSL was enacted in July. Read [here](#).

Donation or Offering to the Church

If you wish to make a donation or offering to the church and support our ministries, you may send us a cheque payable to “Kowloon Union Church” and mail it to 4 Jordan Road, KLN. Or you can make a direct deposit to our church account: HSBC Account 018-1-080268. Please mail or email (kuc@kuc.hk) the bank receipt to us for our records. For more options, please visit the church website <https://kuc.hk/giving>

	TODAY 20 December	NEXT WEEK 27 December
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Matt Coulson	Timothy Chan
Pianist:	Eric Sin	Cheryl Hui
Lector:	Chris Wong	Maggie Mathieson
Intercessory Prayers:	Rey Asis	Hope Antone
I.T. Team:	Timothy Chan Bervinder Kaur	Lo Yuk Fai Bervinder Kaur