

Kowloon Union Church
"Where all are one"
4 Jordan Road, Kowloon
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Secretary: Heddy Ha
Minister: Maggie Mathieson
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



Christmas Eve Service
24 December 2021
7:30 p.m.

APPROACH

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN "Light of Hope Ignite In Us" – Chan/Mathieson

OPENING PRAYER

LESSONS AND CAROLS

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

CAROL 1 "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear" – Willis/Sears

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:26-35

CAROL 2 "No Wind At the Window" – Bell
– Jessica, Eric, Caden, Lilly & Enoch

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:18-23

CAROL 3 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" – Mendelssohn/Wesley

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1, 3-7

CAROL 4 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" – Redner/Brooks

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-14

CAROL 5 "Angels' Carol", "Igazi Lemvanna" – Rutter/Anon
– BSharp Choir

THE RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11

CAROL 6 "Noel Noel", "Sizalwe Indodana" – J E Biayenda/Anon
– Harambe

OFFERING “Will You Come and See the Light?” – Trad/Wren

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

REFLECTIVE ANTHEM “Inscription of Hope” – Stroope
– BSharp Choir

SCRIPTURE READING John 1:1–14

LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

CAROL 7 “Silent Night” – Gruber

Passing of the light during singing

COMMISSION

RECESSIONAL HYMN “Joy To The World” – Handel/Watts

CAROLING ON THE STEPS

1. Joy To The World

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing,

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Saviour reigns!

Let all their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove;

The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,

And wonders, wonders, of His love.

2. **Away In a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side, 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

3. **Deck the Halls**

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la la la la!
'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la la la la!
Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la la la la la la!
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, Fa la la la la la la la!

See the blazing yule before us, Fa la la la la la la la!
Strike the harp and join the chorus, Fa la la la la la la la!
Sing we joyous all together! Fa la la la la la la la!
Heedless of the wind and weather, Fa la la la la la la la!

4. **Ding Dong Merrily On High**

Ding dong merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!" by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

5. Feliz Navidad

Feliz navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad
Prospero Ano y Felicidad.

We wanna wish you a Merry Christmas
We wanna wish you a Merry Christmas
We wanna wish you a Merry Christmas
From the bottom of our hearts.

6. Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain, our Jesus Christ is born.*

When I was a seeker I sought both night and day,
I asked the Lord to help me, and he showed me the way.

He made me a watchman upon a city wall,
And if I am a Christian, I am the least of all.

7. Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

8. Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow in a one horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go laughing all the way
Bells on bob tails ring making spirits bright
What fun it is to laugh and sing a sleighing song tonight

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh
Jingle bells, jingle bells jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh!

9. Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high.
Sweetly singing o'er the plains.
And the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see,
Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord the newborn King.

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.

10. Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

11. Silver Bells

City sidewalks busy sidewalks. Dressed in holiday style
In the air there's a feeling of Christmas
Children laughing, people passing, meeting smile after smile
And on ev'ry street corner you'll hear

Silver bells, silver bells, it's Christmas time in the city
Ring a ling hear them sing, Soon it will be Christmas Day.

12. The Calypso Carol

See Him lying on a bed of straw
A draughty stable with an open door
Mary cradling the babe she bore
The Prince of glory is His name

**O now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord appear to men
Just as poor as was the stable then
The Prince of glory when He came**

Star of silver, sweep across the skies
Show where Jesus in the manger lies
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
To see the Saviour of the world

13. The First Noel

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought.

14. We Wish You a Merry Christmas

**We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

TONIGHT...

- Worship Leader : Maggie Mathieson
Musicians : Jessica Tso, Eric Sin, Caden Lam,
Renata Kwok, Lilly Lu
Choirs : Harambe Choir, BSharp Choir
Soloists : Enoch Wong, Lilly Lu
Lectors : Paul Wong, Anjenette Bolanos, Harry Chan,
Sunita Suna, David Owufuju, Venus Cheng,
Rey Asis
Prayers : Doris Lee, Chan Beng Seng
Greeter : Hope Antone, Kevin Ng, Lucy Lim, Chris Law
Offering : Mercy Matilda, Kevin Ng,
Rachel Ngugi, Stephanie Mumbi

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome!

Welcome to our Service this evening. After the Service, we will continue with our carolling.

BSharp Choir

We are so happy to welcome once again members of the 'BSharp Choir'. The choir was established in February 2019, all the members of the choir are alumni of the Bishop Hall Jubilee School.

Christmas Donation

This year the offering the church receives on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services (except the promissory offerings) will be given to the 'Christian Times'. It is a local independent Christian newspaper.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP TOMORROW

AT 11:00 A.M.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US !

KUC'S CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITIONS

Traditions are made through experience, through events so meaningful that people repeat them in rituals, in words, and in music – so that every generation can remember and re-experience them.

The lighting of the Christ candle is a tradition of many churches. Light is a symbol of Christ's love and grace. It is also a symbol of our own personal commitment. It is a commitment that we bear, *I* bear, in being a faithful witness to Christ in daily living, even to the ends of the earth.

Kowloon Union Church has further developed this tradition, adding a practice of our own – the Singing on the Steps. After the Christmas Eve Service, we gather on the outer steps to sing Christmas carols.

The background. Until the late 1960s, the congregation used to go from the Christmas Eve Service to Queen Elizabeth Hospital to sing carols there. In 1968, however, Hong Kong was in a state of uproar and confusion. There was rioting in the streets. Bombs were set off. Electricity was often cut. A curfew was declared, and it was not possible for carolers to go to the hospital. So some young church members decided instead to remain on the steps and sing carols by candlelight. They wanted to show that, transcending the human chaos, there was God's peace; above people's hatred, there was God's love.

KUC is an international Ecumenical Church that embraces diversity and receives all people regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientations, gender identities, socio-economic status and different level of capacities. This is our witness to the good news of inclusivity, unity and oneness in Jesus Christ, who was born to embrace everyone and share love to all.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!