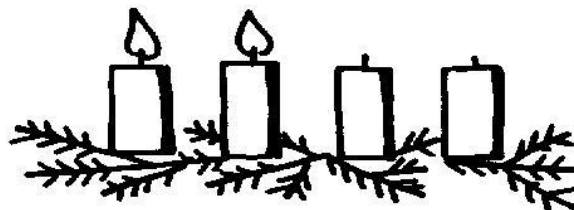


Kowloon Union Church
“Where all are one”
4 Jordan Road, Kowloon
Tel. 2367-2585 • kuc@kuc.hk
Secretary: Candy Lam
Social Ministry Worker: Katie Ho
Minister: Maggie Mathieson
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



Second Sunday in Advent
10 December 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation stands)

APPROACH

ADVENT LITANY

PREPARATION SONG “Light of Hope” – Music: T Chan; Lyrics: M. Mathieson

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** “Come Now O Prince of Peace” – Music: O so so, Words: Kon-Yong Yi

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND “Kyrie Eleison” – Composer: Traditional Orthodox

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” – Composer: Robin Mann

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

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

Luke 1: 24-45 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN “The Power of Your Love” – Composer: Geoff Bullock

RECEPTION OF JOHN MOK-LAMME INTO MEMBERSHIP

SERMON “Let It Be”

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND “Wait for The Lord”

– Composer: Taizé Community

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** “Trust And Obey”

– Composer: John H. Sammis

* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

Concerns of the Church

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

- Today is International Human Rights Day and marks the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Adopted by the United Nations in 1948, the UDHR proclaims fundamental human rights for all, transcending factors like race, religion, and social status. The year-long Human Rights 75 initiative focuses on universality, progress, and engagement, culminating in a high-level event announcing global pledges. The theme, "Freedom, Equality and Justice for All," underscores the enduring significance of the UDHR in addressing contemporary challenges. The initiative emphasizes youth engagement through the Youth and Human Rights 75 initiative, recognizing their unique role in activism. On this day, let us reflect and pray for the continued promotion and protection of human rights globally, with a special emphasis on empowering and involving the youth in this vital endeavour.
- Severe flooding in northern Tanzania last week, triggered by heavy rain, has led to landslides, resulting in the tragic loss of at least 47 lives, with 85 others injured. The town of Katesh, situated 300km north of the capital, Dodoma, was severely impacted. The region previously grappled with an unprecedented drought and is now experiencing flooding linked to the El Nino weather phenomenon. As East Africa faces devastating impacts, displacing over a million people in Somalia and causing hundreds of fatalities, let us unite in prayer for the affected families and communities. May those facing the floods find safety, comfort, and support, and may the global community work collaboratively to address climate change and its severe consequences on vulnerable regions.
- In Southeast Asia, two devastating natural disasters unfolded this month, underscoring the region's susceptibility to geological events. In the Philippines, a series of earthquakes, the most recent being of magnitude 7.6, struck Mindanao, claiming multiple lives, including that of a pregnant woman. Simultaneously, Indonesia faced the aftermath of Mount Marapi's volcanic eruption, with the death toll reaching 22. Marapi's hazardous conditions hinder rescue efforts. These incidents highlight the persistent challenges in the Pacific Ring of Fire. In these trying times, our thoughts and prayers are with the affected communities, hoping for strength and resilience amid adversity.
- In Laos, the younger generation grapples with a pervasive sense of hopelessness amid a two-year prolonged economic downturn. The dire job market, coupled with the consequences of government borrowing for Chinese-backed projects, has resulted in budget cuts, inflation, and currency depreciation. Frustrated by what they perceive as a corrupt and oppressive government, many young Laotians are contemplating leaving the country for better prospects. The nation's escalating debt, primarily owed to China, has created a precarious situation with limited

avenues for economic recovery. In these challenging times, we pray for the youth in Laos, wishing them resilience, strength, and opportunities for a brighter future amidst these difficult circumstances.

- Recent data reveals that electricity generation in China and India and oil and gas production in the US have contributed significantly to the increase in global greenhouse gas emissions since the signing of the Paris climate agreement in 2015. Despite over 100 countries committing to reducing the potent greenhouse gas methane emissions, levels have continued to rise. The data underscores the failure of countries and companies to report emissions accurately in violation of Paris Agreement obligations. As over 190 countries convene in Dubai for Cop28, the UN climate summit, to work towards the Paris goal of limiting global temperature rises, we pray for global leaders and nations to collaborate effectively, acknowledging the severity of the climate crisis and taking decisive actions to combat global warming for the well-being of our planet and future generations.
- Minnie Chan, a Hong Kong reporter from the South China Morning Post (SCMP), has been unreachable for over a month since travelling to China, sparking concerns of potential detention by Chinese authorities. The Alibaba-owned SCMP states that Chan is on personal leave in Beijing, citing a family request for privacy. However, concerns persist, given a similar unexplained absence of another SCMP reporter in 2022. Media freedom groups, including the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), express concern about Chan's safety, urging Chinese authorities to disclose her location. In the challenging environment for journalists in Hong Kong, let us pray for the safety of Minnie Chan and all journalists facing threats, and may the freedom of the press be protected worldwide, allowing journalists to perform their vital roles without fear.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

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

We are **thankful** for:

- those who have remained in these countries through years of conflict and oppression
- Christians who bear witness in the region even though they are small in number
- the many who have provided humanitarian assistance and peace-building
- refugees from these countries who are enriching the societies in which they now have made their home.

We **pray** for:

- those who continue to bear physical and emotional scars from years of conflict
- victims of monsoons and other disasters in the region
- economic development to improve life for all people and the environment
- political stability amid competing powers

For the Congregation

- Pray for those facing health challenges that require body strength restoration: Edna Lai, Paul Wong, Kevin Ng, Revd Bud, Jeanette Lee, Hend, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Joy Babasa and Pastor Maggie. We continue to remember our senior members and friends: Mrs Samuel and the mother of Alex Melwani. 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, Revd Judy Chan, for your message today!

Welcome - John Mok-Lamme, who joins KUC as a full member today by Transfer of membership.

Christmas Worship Services

24/12 Sunday Worship at 10:30am; Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 pm

25/12 Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion at 11 am, followed by pot-luck lunch.

Gentle reminders:

- Return the Stewardship Pledge form
- Submit the cloth for the tapestry project for the Centenary Celebration

	TODAY 10 December	NEXT WEEK 17 December
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Judy Chan	Hope Antone
Pianist:	Jessica Tso	Joshua Pang
Lector:	Caden Lam	Paul Lucas
Intercessory Prayers:	Paul Cooper	Emmanuel Adesina
Family Talk:	No Family Talk	Lydia Cathedral
Greeter:	Lucy Lim Jacob	Kevin Ng Edith San Juan
Offering Rota:	Thapa Samjhana Susan Babasa	Anjenette Bolanos Rachel Wangari
Counting Rota	Jennifer Chan Robert Lam	Rey Asis Judy Chan
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur
Freewill offering last week: HK\$3,480- Promissory offering last week: HK\$7,960-		