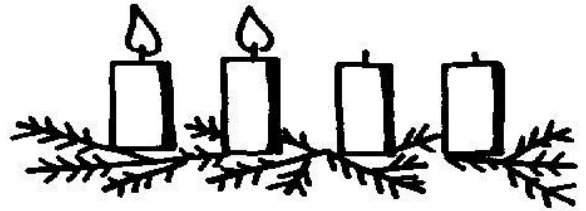


Second Sunday in Advent

10 December 2023

Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation stands)



APPROACH

ADVENT LITANY

L: How does a weary world practice peace?

All: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

L: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

All: By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

L: There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

All: With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

PREPARATION SONG "Light of Hope"

– Music: T Chan; Lyrics: M. Mathieson

Light of Peace ignite in us,

flood our life with Your just peace.

Banish fear and hatred let us honour You,

Light of Peace come dwell in us.--||--

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: When the world began

All: God said yes.

L: When Jesus came

All: God said yes.

L: When we were born

All: God said yes.

L: God says yes to life.

All: God says yes to love.

L: God calls us to be like Mary

All: God, when you call us, help us to say yes!

*** HYMN “Come Now O Prince of Peace ”**

– Music: O so so, Words: Kon-Yong Yi

Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come now, O God of love, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: You, Lord, have been our dwelling place in all generations.
You free us, You provide for us, You have even given yourself to us.

All: We confess that we have turned from Your way and gone our own ways. We have served other gods. We have loved You with our words but not with our actions. Forgive us, and turn us yet again to Your path. Give us courage to follow You, and to proclaim in our lives that we worship and serve only You. Amen!

ALL RESPOND “Kyrie Eleison”

– Composer: Traditional Orthodox

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison --||--

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

Comfort, comfort all My people
With the comfort of My Word
Speak it tender to My people
All your sins are taken away

Though your tears be rivers running
Though your tears be an ocean full
Though you cry with the hurt of living
Comfort, comfort

Every valley shall be lifted
Every mountain shall be low
Every rough place will be smoother
Comfort, comfort

Though your eyes see only darkness
Though your eyes can see no light
Though your eyes see pain and sorrow
Comfort, comfort

Every night will have its morning
Every pain will have an end
Every burden will be lightened
Comfort, comfort

Comfort, comfort all My people
With the comfort of My Word
Speak it tender to My people
All your sins are taken away --||--

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

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

40 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

24After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 25“This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 35The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

39In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN "The Power of Your Love" – Composer: Geoff Bullock

Lord I come to You
Let my heart be changed renewed
Flowing from the grace
That I found in You
And Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the pow'r of Your love

Hold me close
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side

And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the pow'r of Your love

Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see You face to face
The knowledge of Your love
As You live in me
Lord renew my mind
As Your will unfolds in my life
In living ev'ry day
By the pow'r of Your love

Hold me close
Let Your love surround me
Bring me near
Draw me to Your side
And as I wait
I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with You
Your Spirit leads me on
In the pow'r of Your love.

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RECEPTION OF JOHN MOK-LAMME INTO MEMBERSHIP

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are equally members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus along being the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy Temple in Christ. In him you also are built into that structure to be a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

(Ephesians 2:19-21)

Friends of Christ,

will you welcome John into the fellowship of this congregation, and will you offer her your friendship and support?

All: We will.

Will you allow yourself to be changed, shaped and transformed by these new members, living into our called identity as a beloved community of God?

All: With the God's help, we will.

SERMON “Let It Be”

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe that joy is a sacred gift,
existing on a plane deeper than happiness,
stemming from the truth that we belong to God.**

We believe that joy is not meant for isolation.

Joy is meant to be shared,

weaving us together in laughter and in hope.

**And when joy feels impossibly out of reach,
we believe that part of being sacred community
is leaning on one another.**

So together we say:

I will share my joy when yours runs out.

You will share your joy when mine runs out.

And in doing so, we will both see God.

Amen.

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 "Wait for The Lord"

– Composer: Taizé Community

Wait For The Lord,

Whose Day Is Near.

Wait For The Lord,

Keep Watch, Take Heart! --||--

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** “Trust And Obey”

– Composer: John H. Sammis

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way
While we do His good will
He abides with us still
And with all who will trust and obey

Trust and obey
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey

Not a shadow can rise
Not a cloud in the skies
But His smile quickly drives it away
Not a doubt nor a fear
Not a sigh nor a tear
Can abide while we trust and obey

Trust and obey
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey

Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet
Or we'll walk by His side in the way
What He says we will do
Where He sends we will go
Never fear only trust and obey

Trust and obey
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey
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* **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-		