

Kowloon Union Church
“Where all are one”
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Secretary: Candy Lam
Social Ministry Worker: Katie Ho
Minister: Maggie Mathieson
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
28 January 2024
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG “Jesus le Christ” (Lord Jesus Christ) – Composer: Taizé

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** “10,000 Reasons” – Composers: M Redman and S Angrisano

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND “Kyrie Eleison” (Lord, have mercy)

– Trad. Orthodox

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

UCCP CHOIR “Great is the Goodness”

– Composers: C. Reid and R Hamilton

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Jonah 1: 1 - 17 (O.T.)

Luke 8: 16 – 18 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN “Jesus Loves Me”

– Composers: AB Warner and W B Bradbury

FAMILY TALK

SERMON

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MISSION MOMENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND “Ubi Caritas”

– Taizé

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** “Will You Come and Follow Me” – Music: Trad; Words: J L Bell

* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

Please remember as you pray. . .

- World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed during the first week of February since 2010. The General Assembly of the UN established this week as a way to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith. The General Assembly encourages all States to spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world’s churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, and other places of worship during that week voluntarily and according to their religious traditions or convictions. Let us pray for the world's religious leaders to spread the message of interfaith dialogue and harmony. May they inspire their followers to embrace the values of mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation and work towards building a more peaceful and harmonious world.
- According to BBC News, the rate of deforestation in Brazil's Amazon fell by nearly 50% in 2023 compared to the previous year. The deforested area is still more than six times the size of New York City, but it has the lowest recorded deforestation rate in the last five years. This news is significant because the Amazon rainforest is a crucial battleground in the global fight against climate change. It is often called "the lungs of the planet" due to its essential role in the planet's oxygen and carbon dioxide cycles. The rainforest is home to about three million species of plants and animals and one million indigenous people. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva pledged to end deforestation by 2030 when he took office a year ago. Let us pray for the preservation of the Amazon rainforest and the well-being of its inhabitants, and may Brazil’s example galvanise other world leaders to act and tackle the climate change problem in earnest.
- On Monday, the Spanish Supreme Court ruled that the authorities violated the law and human rights when they sent back hundreds of unaccompanied child migrants to Morocco in 2021. The children were part of a large group of people who tried to enter Ceuta, a Spanish territory in North Africa, by land or sea. Many of them were fleeing poverty and violence in sub-Saharan Africa. Lord, we pray for the safety and well-being of all migrants and asylum seekers who risk their lives to seek a better future. We ask you to protect them from harm and injustice and to provide them with the care and support they need. We also pray that the authorities and the communities that receive them may act with compassion and respect for their dignity and rights.
- A landslide in Zhaotong, China, killed 20 people and left 24 missing on Monday after a cliff collapsed and buried dozens of homes. Rescuers are working in freezing temperatures to find the survivors, while the Chinese government ordered an “all-out” rescue effort. The region is prone to landslides and earthquakes, and a 7.0 magnitude quake hit Xinjiang on Tuesday, causing some

damage but no casualties. Heavenly Father, we pray for the victims of the landslide and their families that you would comfort them in their grief and provide for their needs. We also pray for the safety and strength of the rescue workers, that you would protect them from harm and guide them in their search.

- Hong Kong is facing two major trials under the national security law imposed by China in 2020. The trials involve prominent pro-democracy figures such as media tycoon Jimmy Lai and activist Joshua Wong, who are accused of colluding with foreign forces or organizing an unofficial primary election. The outcomes of the trials will have significant implications for Hong Kong's democracy and autonomy, as well as its civil and political rights. Meanwhile, Hong Kong is preparing to expand the national security law with new legislation that could further erode its freedoms. O God, we pray for the people of Hong Kong that you will protect them from oppression and injustice. We ask you to uphold the rule of law and the Sino-British Joint Declaration, which guarantee Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and respect for human rights. We pray for the defendants and their lawyers in the trials that you would grant them courage and wisdom and that the judges act with integrity and impartiality. We also pray for the authorities and the legislators in Hong Kong and China that they would act with restraint and accountability and seek dialogue and reconciliation with the people. We ask you to show your mercy and grace to Hong Kong and bless it with peace and prosperity.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, and Tunisia.

We are **thankful** for:

- how the early Christian church developed here.
- the biodiversity of plants, animals and the natural terrain.
- how Berber, Arab and European cultures have blended.
- how these countries have remained and stood against the invasion of cultural and military forces from elsewhere.

We **pray** for:

- all the people of these countries: Muslims, the tiny remnant of Christians, those of other faiths who continue bearing witness to their faiths and for all people of good will.
- an end to political violence.
- an end to how dominating powers have fought over these lands and their resources through the years.
- for those suffering exploitation and mistreatment as they travel through these countries.

For the Congregation

- Pray for those facing health challenges that require body strength restoration: Paul Wong, Kevin Ng, Revd Bud, Jeanette Lee, Hend, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Joy Babasa, Julianne Long, John and Stephanie Mumbi. We continue to remember our senior members and friends: Mrs Samuel and the mothers of Alex Melwani and June Tang. 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 and coffee fellowship after the service.

Thank you, Pastor Maggie, for sharing the Word of God with us this morning.

Harambe Choir

Harambe in Swahili means “join together”. We invite you to join us and sing songs from different cultures and languages! This year, we will collaborate with a local gospel music group called ‘Promist’, in a mass choir event. Why not join us and see what’s next!

Practice time: Every Wednesday, 6-7 pm, in the Upper Fellowship Hall
Please get in touch with Katie Ho (9623 1976) if you’re interested.

Dates For Your Diaries:

Discipleship: Then and Now – Starting 4 Feb, 12nn to 2pm

As part of the KUC centenary celebrations, the Christian Education Committee will launch a new study series entitled ‘Discipleship: Then And Now’. First session will be next Sunday in Upper Fellowship Hall. Light lunch provided. Scan the QR code to reserve your place!



Human Café: Parenting for a Peaceful World

This interactive parenting workshop is suitable for all, not just people with kids. Join us to be inspired and refreshed.

Dates: 2 Mar, 6 Apr

Time: 4-6 pm Venue: KUC Space. Scan the QR code for registration.

(A collaboration of EDiversity and the Peacemaking Ministry)



	TODAY 28 January	NEXT WEEK 4 February
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Maggie Mathieson	Phyllis Wong
Pianist:	Joshua Pang	Katie Ho
Lector:	Adam Snyder	Caden Lam
Intercessory Prayers:	Judy Chan	Robert Lam
Family Talk:	Tong Chong Sze	Maggie Mathieson
Greeter:	Estella Yeung Kevin Ng	Tory Caplan Susan Babasa
Offering Rota:	Daddy Susan Babasa	Rose Muriri Jacob
Counting Rota	Hope Antone Joram Calimutan	Jennifer Chan TBC
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina Jailyn Tomitis	Mary Adesina Jailyn Tomitis
I.T. Team:	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur
Freewill offering last week: HK\$10,101- Promissory offering last week: HK\$1,650- Welfare Fund: HK\$5,000-		