

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



Even the wind and the waves obey him!

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

4 February 2024

Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion Service

(*: Congregation stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Be Still and Know"

– Composer: Anon

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** "Praise with Joy the World's Creator" – Music: J Goss; Words: G Maule, J Bell

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND "Kyrie Eleison"

– Composer: Trad. Orthodox

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

HYMN "Lord, You Have My Heart"

– Composer: M Smith

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 139: 1 - 12 (O.T.)

Luke 8: 22 - 25 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

FAMILY TALK

SERMON

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES' CREED**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL RESPOND "In the Lord"

– Composer: Taizé Community

OFFERTORY

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

HYMN “Eat This Bread”

– Composer: Taizé Community

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

* HYMN “Inspired by Love and Anger” – Music: Trad; Words: G Maule, J Bell

* COMMISSION and BLESSING

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

Please remember as you pray. . .

- Next Saturday is Lunar Chinese New Year’s Day. We wish you all a happy and most prosperous Year of the Dragon. In Chinese culture, the dragon represents good luck, strength, health and also the male element Yang. May the golden dragon lift up Hong Kong’s economy and bring good health and happiness to you all.
- Last month, Venezuela’s Supreme Court upheld a 15-year ban on opposition leader Maria Corina Machado despite her securing an overwhelming majority of votes (over 93%) in a primary election for the opposition. Venezuela’s opposition says the government uses bans unlawfully to prevent them from competing in elections. We pray for fairness and transparency in the electoral process. May the upcoming elections be conducted with integrity, allowing every citizen’s voice to be heard.
- Nearly 400 people have died of starvation in Ethiopia's Tigray and Amhara regions in recent months. Only a small fraction of needy people in Tigray are receiving food aid despite aid agencies resuming grain deliveries, a situation widely blamed on corruption and aid theft. The situation is critical, with severe food insecurity and malnutrition threatening vulnerable children and women in the region. We pray for the Ethiopian government to stand for justice and accountability to stop aid theft and ensure transparency in aid distribution. We also pray that the leaders recognize the critical situation and take adequate measures to help the needy in the affected regions.
- India's economy is projected to grow at an impressive rate of 7.3% this fiscal year, outpacing other major global economies. Sectors like construction and financial services are driving this growth. However, there's a concerning disparity: while overall prosperity is on the rise, rural areas are grappling with job losses and declining incomes. Loving God, we lift our hearts in prayer for the people of India. May economic growth benefit all, bridging gaps between urban and rural communities. Grant wisdom to leaders as they strive for inclusive policies that uplift every citizen. May no one be left behind, and may prosperity be shared equitably.
- A husband-to-be’s family in China made a bold statement by holding up a “zero bride price” sign during their wedding procession. Traditionally, men pay a substantial amount to the bride’s family, but this couple believes love matters more than money.

Their decision received support from both sets of parents. The debate over bride prices continues, with some emphasizing the value of a woman's independence and devotion beyond monetary exchange. We are thankful that people in China are reflecting on and challenging traditions which embody implicit gender bias. May women maintain their dignity and independence in marriage as equal partners in building a loving home and raising a family based on mutual respect and gender equality.

- The waste charging scheme in Hong Kong has faced delays and confusion. Originally planned for the end of 2023, it was postponed to April 1 and now again to August 1, 2024. Despite the hiccups, we hope that the Government recognizes that the success of such a scheme lies not in harsh policing and handing out punitive fines but in changing waste habits and reducing landfill use by cultivating responsible waste disposal. There is a need to provide appropriate supporting measures to educate and facilitate its smooth implementation.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, and Vatican City.

We are **thankful** for:

- the rich historical legacies and distinctive cultures in these countries
- the faithful witness of the churches in the midst of empire-building and colonization
- the many and diverse waves of migrants who have come to these lands
- the hospitality that long has been shown to those arriving on their shores.

We **pray** for:

- the preservation of the fragile environments and shorelines in this region
- an end to economic and political turmoil
- stable governments that end corruption and serve the common good
- policies that relieve disparities between those who are rich and poor.

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.
- May the Lord protect all travelling during the Lunar New Year, and may we be more mindful to call friends and family, especially those who are alone during the festivities.

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. Today, we will celebrate all those born in February. Happy Birthday, February 'babies'!

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

Discipleship – Then and Now

Today will be the first session in the series - all are welcome to join.
It will start with a light lunch at noon in the Upper Fellowship Hall.



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.

100 Acts of Service

“What could I do today that could be the answer to someone's prayer?”

KUC has opened a Kudoboard for everyone to share their Acts of Service. Kudoboard is an online platform where we can record our experience in words, images or videos.

You can scan the QR code or use the link to open the Kudoboard.

You may be inspired to see how others have reached out to their neighbours.

<https://www.kudoboard.com/boards/LaXxotKG>



Date For Your Diaries:

Ash Wednesday – 14 February

Join us in a time of Worship as we enter the Season of Lent.

Wednesday, 14 February, at 7:30 pm in the Lower Fellowship Hall.

	TODAY 4 February	NEXT WEEK 11 February
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Phyllis Wong	Bud Carroll
Pianist:	Katie Ho	Joshua Pang
Lector:	Caden Lam	Blessing Loukeba
Intercessory Prayers:	Robert Lam	Phyllis Wong
Family Talk:	Maggie Mathieson	Tong Chong Sze
Greeter:	Tory Caplan Susan Babasa	Edna Lai Journaliz Badon
Offering Rota:	Rose Muriri Jacob	Susan Babasa Edith San Juan
Counting Rota	Jennifer Chan Robert Lam	Judy Chan Lucy Lim
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina Jailyn Tomitis	Jailyn Tomitis Tong Chong Sze Gabi Baumgartner/ Estella Yeung
I.T. Team:	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur	Amber Tong Bervinder Kaur
Freewill offering last week: HK\$2834.60- Promissory offering last week: HK\$9,850-		