

Kowloon Union Church

“Where all are one”

4 Jordan Road, Kowloon

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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

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am God

x2 --||--

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

No matter where we are,

whatever storm we are in,

whatever squall, whatever uproar,

whatever commotion,

God is there, here, now, holding us in worship.

* **HYMN** “Praise with Joy the World’s Creator”

– Music: J Goss; Words: G Maule, J Bell

Praise with joy the world's Creator
God of justice love and peace
Source and end of human knowledge
Force of greatness without cease
Celebrate the Maker's glory
Power to rescue and release

Praise the Son who feeds the hungry
Frees the captive finds the lost
Heals the sick upsets religion
Fearless of both fate and cost
Celebrate Christ's constant presence
Friend and Stranger Guest and Host

Praise the Spirit sent among us
Liberating truth from pride
Forging bonds where race or gender
Age or nation dare divide
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure
Foolishness none dare deride

Praise the Maker Son and Spirit
One God in community
Calling Christians to embody
Oneness and diversity
Thus the world shall yet believe
When shown Christ's vibrant unity --||--

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy,
we come together today, united but different,
unique and connected,
each searching for truth and guidance in our
lives,
we strive for faith in you, but we do not always
succeed.**

**So we ask for your love and understanding
For your care and your guidance
as we try to live better,
forgive us for all that we have done that we know
we shouldn't and all that we haven't done that we
know we should,
and for all that lies heavily on our hearts.**

ALL RESPOND “Kyrie Eleison”

– Composer: Trad. 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 “Lord, You Have My Heart ”

– Composer: M Smith

Lord, You have my heart
And I will search for Yours
Jesus, take my life and lead me on

Oh Lord, You have my heart
And I will search for Yours
Let me be to You a sacrifice

And I will praise You, Lord
And I will sing of love come down
And as You show Your face
We'll see Your glory here

Lord, You have my heart
And I will search for Yours
Jesus, take my life and lead me on

Oh Lord, You have my heart
And I will search for Yours
Let me be to You a sacrifice

And I will praise You, Lord
And I will sing of love come down
And as You show Your face
We'll see Your glory here

And I will praise You, Lord
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We'll see Your glory here.

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SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

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

1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

**2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

3 You search out my path and my lying down, and
are acquainted with all my ways.

**4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD,
you know it completely.**

5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your
hand upon me.

6Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

7Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

8If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

9If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

10even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

11If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

12even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

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

22 One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake."

So they put out, 23 and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger.

24 They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he woke up

and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm.

25 He said to them, “Where is your faith?” They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?”

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

FAMILY TALK

SERMON

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

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.**

On the third day he rose again;

**he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL RESPOND “In the Lord”

– Composer: Taizé Community

In the Lord, I'll be ever thankful,
In the Lord, I will rejoice.
Look to God, do not be afraid,
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near;
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

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OFFERTORY

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

HYMN “Eat This Bread”

– Composer: Taizé Community

Eat this bread, Drink this cup
Come to him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, Drink this cup,
Trust in him and you will not thirst.

Jesus Christ, Bread of Life
Those who come to you will not hunger.
Jesus Christ, Risen Lord,
Those who trust in you will not thirst.

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INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with us

We rejoice in God’s Presence.

We lift up our hearts.

We lift our hearts to the Lord.

We give thanks to God,

who creates and sustains all things.

Loving God

In the fullness of time you gave us Jesus Christ,

Who entered into the world as your servant,

To heal,

To liberate,

To proclaim the Good News of your kin-dom.

As a sign of God's presence among us, our Lord

Jesus prepared a meal of bread and wine, a

celebration,

of life over death

of love over fear

of union over separation.

Christ lives in us,

and we in Christ,

In Christ we are set free :

a new creation.

Confirmed for us in bread and wine,

a meal of jubilation.

With all your Church throughout the world

we offer you our praise and lift our voice

to join the everlasting song of heaven:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might

Heaven and Earth are full of Your Glory;

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

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.**

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining
and whose power we cannot comprehend:**

**show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,
and shield us from knowing more than we can
bear until we may look upon you without fear;
Lord, we thank you that we have broken your
bread, and received your life.**

**By the power of your Spirit, keep us always in
your love through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

*** HYMN “Inspired by Love and Anger”**

– Music: Trad; Words: G Maule, J Bell

Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and
pain,

Informed of God's own bias, we ask him once again:

"How long must some folk suffer? How long can
few folk mind?

How long dare vain self-interest turn prayer and pity
blind?"

From those forever victims of heartless human
greed,
Their cruel plight composes a litany of need:
"Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs
of peace?
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find
their release?"

God asks, "Who will go for me? Who will extend
my reach?
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and
preach?
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they
know?
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I
show?"

Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's
boat,
Attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed
and wrote,
A saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools
Has come to tip the balance with fishermen and
fools.

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* COMMISSION and BLESSING

The peace of God

so great we cannot understand it.

May the peace of Christ

guard our hearts and minds.

The peace of the Holy Spirit

be with us all, now and always. Amen

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-		