

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



**Transfiguration Sunday**  
**11 February 2024**  
**Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

(\*: Congregation stands)

### **APPROACH**

**PREPARATION SONG** "Oculi Nostri"

(Our Eyes are Turned to the Lord Jesus Christ) – Composer: Taizé

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

\* **HYMN** "Let Us Sing to the God of Salvation" – Music: Trad; Words: R Bewes

**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.**

**HYMN** "He is Exalted"

– Composer: Twila Paris

**SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

Psalm 50: 1-6 (O.T.)

Mark 9: 2-9 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

**And bear much fruit for Your glory.**

**HYMN** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

– Music: Folk; Words Attr. Sadhu Sundar Singh

**FAMILY TALK**

**SERMON** "Living in the Valley"

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

### **THE OFFERTORY**

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL RESPOND** "O Lord, Hear Our Prayer"

– Composer: Taizé

**OFFERTORY**

## THE PEACE

\* HYMN “Transfigure Us, O Lord”

– Composer: Bob Hurd

\* COMMISSION and BLESSING

### CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

**Please remember as you pray. . .**

- Happy Chinese New Year! Today is the second day of the Year of the Dragon. Traditionally, today is a time for married people to visit their parents’ homes and bring gifts and red packets (laisee) to their families and relatives. It is also a time to pray for good fortunes and hope for a better and more prosperous year. May the economy of Hong Kong rebound as strongly and as spiritedly as the proverbial dragon.
- As we gather in worship today, which the United Nations has designated as International Day of Women and Girls in Science, let us reflect on the remarkable contributions of women and girls in the field of science. Just as God's creation is diverse and multifaceted, so too are the talents and perspectives that women bring to scientific research. Their creativity, dedication, and insights enrich our understanding of the world and help address pressing global challenges, from health to climate change. Yet, despite progress in education, a gender gap persists in STEM disciplines worldwide. As a church community, let us pray for gender equality in all areas of life. May we recognize every individual's inherent worth and gifts, regardless of gender, and work towards a world where all can thrive and contribute fully.
- Senegal, a nation known for its generally peaceful transitions of power, faces a critical moment. President Macky Sall unilaterally postponed the presidential election, originally scheduled for 25 February, to 15 December. This unprecedented delay has sparked protests and accusations of a constitutional "coup". Opposition figures, including popular politician Ousmane Sonko, are barred from the ballot, raising concerns about fairness and judiciary corruption. Let us pray for Senegal's democracy and pray that the Lord will guide the leaders and citizens of Senegal toward justice, transparency, and a peaceful resolution. May the postponed elections lead to a stronger democratic foundation, and may the nation continue to be a beacon of stability in the region.
- Chile is grappling with devastating wildfires that have claimed over 120 lives and left thousands injured. Fueled by an unusual heatwave, these fires have razed thousands of homes in the Valparaíso region. As families search for missing loved ones amidst the rubble, we pray for their strength and resilience. We also pray for the rescue efforts in Chile. May the Lord grant wisdom to the firefighters, comfort grieving families, and heal the injured. May those who lost their lives find eternal peace, and may their families find solace in the support of the community.
- Dr. Yang Hengjun, a former employee of China’s Ministry of State Security, has been given a suspended death sentence in China after being accused of spying. His writings, often referred to as those of a “democracy peddler,” carefully navigated away from direct criticisms of the government. Human Rights Watch Asia has expressed grave concerns about due process, calling the outcome “outrageous.” Let us pray for justice, the fair rule of law, and the protection of freedom of expression: may freedom of expression be safeguarded, and may the light of truth shine even in the darkest corners.

- China is currently grappling with severe winter weather, including blizzards and freezing rain, which has disrupted transportation during the Lunar New Year holiday. Millions of people, eager to reunite with their families, face delays and cancellations. The festival holds immense significance for urban workers, often marking their only trip back to their hometowns for a joyful celebration with loved ones over the seven-day national holiday. Dear Heavenly Father, we lift up the travellers in China during this challenging time. Grant them safety, warmth, and resilience as they navigate icy roads and disrupted transport. May their reunion with family be filled with hope and joy, and may your guiding hand protect them throughout their journey.
- This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, which heralds the beginning of the season of Lent. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for the forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, leading to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

### **For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland.

We are **thankful** for:

- the quality of life that many in these countries enjoy and their commitment to provide for those in the world who are in need
- the organizations located here that seek to increase ecumenical and interfaith understanding and work together for the common good of all people and creation
- political and economic transparency in these countries
- those who reach out to migrants and counter attitudes and practices that oppose them.

We **pray** for:

- environmental practices that preserve the natural environment, especially the Alps' melting glaciers
- the work for justice, reconciliation and peace pursued by the people and organizations here, seeking to shape globalization so that it benefits all
- religious freedom, also for those from non-Christian traditions
- overcoming the fear of, and welcoming the embrace of, those who are outsiders to the countries' historic, ethnic traditions.

### **For the Congregation**

- Pray for those facing health challenges that require body strength restoration: Paul Wong, Kevin Ng, Jeanette Lee, Hend, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Joy Babasa, Julianne Long, 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.

**Thank you**, Revd Bud, for sharing the Word of God with us this morning.

### **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.

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



### **Dates 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.

#### **Contemplative Prayer – organized by the Christian Education Committee**

“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” (Isaiah 30:15)

You are welcome to join the morning prayer to be with God through a journey to the heart and soul.

**When: Sunday from 9 to 9:30 am**

**Where: Upper Fellowship Hall**

**Contact: Pastor Phyllis if you wish to know more about the prayer time.**

	<b>TODAY 11 February</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK 18 February</b>
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Bud Carroll	Judy Chan
Pianist:	Joshua Pang	Lucy Lim
Lector:	Blessing Loukeba	Kenneth Ku
Intercessory Prayers:	Phyllis Wong	Paul Lucas
Family Talk:	Tong Chong Sze	Maggie Mathieson
Greeter:	Edna Lai Journaliz Badon	Susan Babasa Kevin Ng
Offering Rota:	Susan Babasa Edith San Juan	Anjenette Bolanos Thapa Samjhana
Counting Rota	Judy Chan Gabi Baumgartner	TBC
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis Tong Chong Sze Gabi Baumgartner/ Estella Yeung	Mary Adesina Tong Chong Sze Gabi Baumgartner/Estella Yeung
I.T. Team:	Amber Tong Bervinder Kaur	Amber Tong Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$23,103-

Promissory offering last week: HK\$7,190-