

First Sunday in Lent

18 February 2024

Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation stands)



APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG “Oculi Nostri”

(Our Eyes Are Turned) – Composer: Taizé

Our eyes are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ

Our eyes are turned to the Lord God our Saviour --||--

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

When life is rough and tough

When the path is more uphill than plain sailing

when the desert expands and land dries up

We worship

When the memories linger of the past

and war shapes us beyond our knowing

and conflict becomes a story of life

We worship

When the world is no longer a paradise

and creation shows its full power over us still

and we are brought down to size on this small planet of

ours

We worship

We worship

because we can

We worship
because we must

We worship
Because we need God for the journey

* **HYMN** “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

– Music: W. M. Runyan; Words: T. O. Chisholm

Great is Thy faithfulness
God our creator
There is no shadow
Of turning with Thee
Thou changest not
Thy compassions they fail not
As Thou hast been
Thou forever wilt be

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning
New mercies I see

All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness
Lord unto me

Summer and winter
And springtime and harvest
Sun moon and stars

In their courses above
Join with all nature
In manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness
Mercy and love

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning
New mercies I see
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness
Lord unto me

Pardon for sin
And a peace that endureth
Thy own dear presence
To cheer and to guide
Strength for today
And bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine
With ten thousand beside

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning
New mercies I see
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided

Great is Thy faithfulness

Lord unto me

--||--

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, forgive those things we have done

which have caused You sadness,

and those things we should have done

that would have brought You joy.

In both we have failed ourselves, and You.

Bring us back to that place

where our journey began,

when we said we would follow

**the way that You first trod through Your Son Jesus
Christ.**

O Lord, lead us to the Cross

and let us meet You there. Amen.

ALL RESPOND “O Lord Have Mercy On Us” —

Composer: Timothy Chan

O LORD, have mercy on us.

O Christ, have mercy on us.

O LORD, have mercy on us.

--||--

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

HYMN “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

– Composer: Rick Founds

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

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SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Isaiah 66:1-2 (O.T.)

Thus says the LORD: Heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is my resting place?

2 All these things my hand has made, and so all these things are mine, says the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and contrite in spirit, who trembles at my word.

Matthew 5:1-11 (N.T.)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN “Who Am I”

– Composer: Mark Hall

Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth
Would care to know my name
Would care to feel my hurt

Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star
Would choose to light the way
For my ever wandering heart

Not because of who I am
But because of what You've done
Not because of what I've done
But because of who You are

I am a flower quickly fading
Here today and gone tomorrow
A wave tossed in the ocean
Vapor in the wind

Still You hear me when I'm calling
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling
And You've told me who I am
I am Yours, I am Yours

Who am I, that the eyes that see my sin
Would look on me with love and watch me rise again

Who am I, that the voice that calmed the sea
Would call out through the rain
And calm the storm in me

Not because of who I am
But because of what You've done
Not because of what I've done
But because of who You are

I am a flower quickly fading
Here today and gone tomorrow
A wave tossed in the ocean
Vapor in the wind

Still You hear me when I'm calling
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling
And You've told me who I am
I am Yours

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FAMILY TALK

SERMON “Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit”

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**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

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 “ O Lord, Hear Our Prayer”

– Composer: Taizé

O Lord, hear our prayer;
O Lord, hear our prayer;
when we call answer us.

O Lord, hear our prayer,
O Lord, hear our prayer;
come and listen to us
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OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** “Community of Christ”

– Music: LEONI; Words: S. E. Murray

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee, the hungry,
and the poor.

Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbor's feet.

Community of Christ,

through whom the word must sound --
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish
into joy.
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* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

Please remember as you pray. . .

- Next Tuesday is World Day for Social Justice. It aims to advance progress and social justice within the context of globalization. While momentum is building around the idea that advancing social justice should be the central goal that guides national and international policies, advocates highlight persistent injustices, labor insecurity, inequality, and social contract erosion exacerbated by global crises. We pray for a Global Coalition for Social Justice, emphasizing multilateral cooperation and impactful initiatives worldwide. May our collective efforts lead to a world where fairness, dignity, and opportunity prevail for every individual, transcending borders and barriers.
- In Argentina, the economic crisis fueled by monthly inflation topping 20% has led to a surge in hunger among vulnerable residents. The Sal de la Tierra soup kitchen in Villa Fiorito, a poor Buenos Aires suburb, now serves around 70 families, up from 20 families a few months ago. Relying on private

contributions and volunteer work, the kitchen struggles to meet the growing demand. The country's annual inflation rate reached 254%, and while economists expect some relief in the second half of 2024, the IMF predicts a 2.5% shrinkage in Argentina's economy. As we pray for the well-being of those affected, let us also pray for the new government to rally the whole country to work together and implement wise economic policies to alleviate suffering and foster stability.

- The Security Initiative against the Proliferation of Weapons underscores the importance of South-South and international cooperation. The initiative garnered interest and commitment during a meeting last Tuesday attended by numerous participants from African countries. The event aimed to emphasize how nations, within the framework of South-South cooperation, can harness their unique strengths and resources to tackle common challenges. As we strive for peace, let us pray that the peace dividend will enable Africa's precious resources to be wisely utilized for development, uplifting lives, and fostering prosperity.
- Prabowo Subianto, the son-in-law of the former dictator Suharto who was ousted in 1998 amid massive student protests and nationwide riots, has claimed victory in the Presidential Election in Indonesia held on Wednesday. In a scarcely believable twist, the spokesman alongside Prabowo is Budiman, a once-active student opponent of Suharto. Budiman's transformation highlights the twists of Indonesia's young democracy. Prabowo, once a military strongman with a controversial past, stands alongside Budiman in this democratic election. Indonesia, a nation of 17,000 islands and 700 languages, defies expectations with its stability despite its vast diversity. As the country faces its next chapter, let us pray

for the preservation of democracy and wise leadership so that the people's voices may continue to shape Indonesia's future.

- In 2023, China's total trade with Africa experienced a modest 1.5% growth, reaching \$282.1 billion. However, the trade deficit between Africa and China expanded, as Chinese exports to the continent increased by 7.5% to \$173 billion, while imports from Africa decreased by 6.7% to \$109 billion. To address this imbalance, Beijing has pledged to grow its imports from Africa by opening "green lanes" for African agricultural exports and allowing more African products to enter the Chinese market duty-free. While these efforts are commendable, achieving a trade balance will require a long-term commitment and perhaps innovative approaches from Africa and China. Let us pray for the leaders to put people first, make decisions that benefit both the African nations and China, and foster mutual prosperity.
- Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) is taking a groundbreaking step by hosting UN anti-corruption workshops. The newly launched Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption aims to create a global learning platform for law enforcement. With an overwhelming response, the academy will serve as a forum for experts worldwide to share their knowledge and experience in tackling corruption. As we pray for transparency, integrity, and responsible governance, may these anti-corruption efforts form the bedrock for Hong Kong's continued economic prosperity.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in France, Germany, and Monaco.

We are **thankful** for:

- the rich historical and cultural legacies from these lands have come to the world.
- Franco-German friendship, reconciliation and cooperation that has emerged since the hostilities of the Second World War.
- how churches and governments in France and Germany have welcomed new immigrants.
- the generosity in supporting ecumenical, interfaith and development work in the world.

We **pray** for:

- overcoming fears and suspicions that still remain from 20th-century atrocities and more recent terrorist attacks.
- churches and governments to effectively counter anti-immigrant populist sentiments in these countries so that they truly will become more multi-ethnic.
- economic decisions that are accountable to those who are most vulnerable and not only to those making a profit.
- election of political leaders who will further the common good for their country and for the sake of Europe and the rest of the world.

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.

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 Judy Chan, 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:

Every Sunday Morning

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 9:00 to 9:30 am

Where: Upper Fellowship Hall

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

	TODAY 18 February	NEXT WEEK 25 February
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Judy Chan	Paul Cooper
Pianist:	Lucy Lim	Eva Kwan
Lector:	Kenneth Ku	Chris Law
Intercessory Prayers:	Paul Lucas	Tory Caplan
Family Talk:	Mayson Fung	Chan Beng Seng
Greeter:	Susan Babasa Kevin Ng	Edwina Antonio Susan Babasa
Offering Rota:	Anjenette Bolanos Thapa Samjhana	Daddy Jacob
Counting Rota	Aimé Girimana Chan Beng Seng	Lucy Lim Edwina Antonio
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina Tong Chong Sze Gabi Baumgartner/Estella Yeung	Jailyn Tomitis Tong Chong Sze Estella Yueng
I.T. Team:	Amber Tong Bervinder Kaur	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur