

OFFERTORY THE PEACE

* **HYMN** “Meekness and Majesty”

– Composer: Graham Kendrick

* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

Please remember as you pray. . .

- On Zero Discrimination Day, observed annually on 1 March, we celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life with dignity and free from discrimination. This day emphasizes inclusion, compassion, peace, and a movement for change. Zero Discrimination Day aims to create global solidarity to end all forms of discrimination. Unfortunately, there are recent well-coordinated and well-funded global pushback against women’s rights, against the human rights of LGBTQ people, against sexual and reproductive health and rights, against democracy and against civic space, which is not only a threat to everyone’s freedom, it is a threat to everyone’s health. This year's tenth-anniversary theme is “To protect everyone’s health, protect everyone’s rights.” Let us pray for a world that embraces diversity, eliminates discrimination, and upholds the rights of every person, including those suffering from AIDS.
- Large crowds in Ibadan, Nigeria, marched to express their frustration amidst the country’s economic crisis. The January 2024 inflation rate surged to 29.9%, the highest since 1996, primarily driven by rising food and non-alcoholic beverage prices. People are struggling to afford basic necessities, and inflation affects goods across the board. The government had launched reforms last year that saw the removal of gas subsidies, but this eroded incomes and savings while squeezing millions already struggling with hardship. A plummeting currency worsens the situation. We pray for the Nigerian government to take active and effective steps to help the poor and find solutions to alleviate poverty and bridge the gap of uneven wealth distribution.
- Venezuela’s government has expelled staff from the United Nations human rights body, demanding their departure within three days. The government cites the need to review its cooperation with the organization comprehensively. The UN, in response, expresses regret and continues to engage with Venezuelan authorities. The situation reflects the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, where millions lack access to adequate healthcare and nutrition. Over 270 political prisoners remain incarcerated, and more than 7.7 million Venezuelans have fled the country. The UN’s human rights office, operating in Venezuela since 2019, faces accusations of a “colonialist, abusive, and violating attitude” by the government. O Lord, we lift our voices in prayer for the people of Venezuela. May their human rights be respected and protected, even amidst challenges and political tensions. Grant wisdom to those in authority that they may prioritize the well-being and dignity of every citizen.
- Two political parties in Pakistan, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), have reached a formal agreement to form a new government after a controversial election. Despite winning fewer seats than candidates loyal to jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the PMLN will lead the administration with the PPP’s backing. Despite PTI emerging as the largest bloc, their 93 seats fell short of the majority needed to form a government, leading to negotiations between PMLN and PPP. On X, Mr Khan's PTI party branded the coalition "mandate thieves", his movement alleges the vote was rigged to keep his supporters out of power. The PMLN and PPP were part of a coalition which dramatically forced Mr Khan from

office in 2022. In January 2024, he was jailed for ten years after being charged with leaking state secrets, which he denies. The PTI is challenging the outcome in the courts, and its supporters have staged protests across the country. We pray for peace and stability in Pakistan. May fair and representative elections prevail, reflecting the true wishes of the electorate. Guide the leaders to govern with wisdom, compassion, and justice.

- Hong Kong is moving forward with new national security legislation, prompting concerns from the foreign business community. The proposed law, known as Article 23, aims to ban crimes such as treason, secession, sedition, subversion, and theft of state secrets. While many people, including businessmen and investors, have expressed concerns, the government emphasizes its constitutional duty to safeguard national security and demised such concerns as “smears from external forces”. We pray that justice, the rule of law, and freedom of speech in Hong Kong be upheld. May the new legislation be justly implemented, ensuring the protection of citizens’ rights and liberties. Guide the leaders to govern with wisdom and compassion, fostering a fair, just, and open society.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

We are **thankful** for:

- the important roles political leaders here have played in European integration.
- how people here have led in creative solutions to environmental, economic, and cultural challenges.
- how churches here have overcome barriers and reached out to assure a good life for all.
- the ecumenical contributions that have come from this area and their continuing support.

We **pray** for:

- overcoming cultural, linguistic and political barriers and suspicions that remain divisive.
- the haunting legacies of colonization and quests for economic gain.
- immigrants who are alienated or marginalized in these societies.
- greater tolerance and solidarity with all in these societies and around 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, Paul Cooper, for sharing the Word of God with us this morning.

Every Sunday Morning

Contemplative Prayer – organized by the Christian Education Committee

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.

100 Acts of Service

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

KUC Kudoboard (online platform)

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

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



Dates For Your Diaries:

Next Sunday, 12 noon to 2 pm : ‘Discipleship: Then And Now’

Join us in our second session of the series when we think more about the stories of the women disciples.

Venue: Lower 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.



	TODAY 25 February	NEXT WEEK 3 March
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Paul Cooper	Aimé Girimana
Pianist:	Eva Kwan	Lucy Lim
Lector:		Carol Yuen
Intercessory Prayers:	Tory Caplan	Emmanuel Adesina
Family Talk:	Chan Beng Seng	Tong Chong Sze
Greeter:	Edwina Antonio Carol Yuen and Ronald Chui	Sigrid Buxrud Emil Buxrud
Offering Rota:	Daddy Jacob	Rose Muiruri Susan Babasa
Counting Rota	Lucy Lim Edwina Antonio	Jennifer Chan
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis Tong Chong Sze Estella Yueng	Mary Adesina Tong Chong Sze Estella Yeung
I.T. Team:	Jen Pang Bervinder Kaur	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$4,049.30-

Promissory offering last week: HK\$5,100-

Welfare Fund: \$5,000-