

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**25 February 2024**

**Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

(\*: Congregation stands)



## **APPROACH**

### **PREPARATION SONG “Oculi Nostri”**

(Our Eyes are Turned)

– Taizé

Our eyes are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ

Our eyes are turned to the Lord God our Saviour

Our eyes are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ

Our eyes are turned to the Lord God our Saviour

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### **\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

Hear of God’s promise.

**The promise rests on grace.**

God gives life to the dead.

**The promise rests on grace**

God calls into being things that did not exist.

**The promise rests on grace.**

God came to us through Jesus.

**The promise rests on grace.**

Jesus died and rose again to save us.

**God’s grace comes to us through our faith.**

\* **HYMN** “God Is Here”

– Music: Abbots Leigh; Words: F Pratt

God is here as we His people  
Meet to offer praise and prayer  
May we find in fuller measure  
What it is in Christ we share  
Here as in the world around us  
All our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of His Spirit  
Into open minds and hearts

Here are symbols to remind us  
Of our lifelong need of grace  
Here are table font and pulpit  
Here the cross has central place  
Here in honesty of preaching  
Here in silence as in speech  
Here in newness and renewal  
God the Spirit comes to each

Lord of all of Church and Kin-dom  
In an age of change and doubt  
Keep us faithful to the gospel  
Help us work Your purpose out  
Here in this day's dedication  
All we have to give receive  
We who cannot live without You  
We adore You we believe

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## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God,**

**Forgive us when we forget that sorrow and joy, darkness and light go hand-in-hand;**

**That the suffering of another is our suffering,**

**That the joy we know is not to be hoarded but shared.**

**That just as light warms and energizes us,**

**So darkness calms us and gives us rest.**

**That there are those who still live in shadows of fear and grief**

**That we are called to be with them in the dark and to bring light.**

**We thank you for darkness and light, for the strife and the joy, and for making us whole. 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.

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## **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  
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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.**

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 (O.T.)

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

**2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;**

3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

**4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;**

5 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

**6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;**

7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

**8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.**

John 11: 1-7, 28 - 44 (N.T.)

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill.

3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." 4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness

does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."

29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

31 The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

32 When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34 He said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Lord, come and see."

35 Jesus began to weep. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” 40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”

43 When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

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

**HYMN** “Hymn of Promise (In the Bulb)”

– Composer: N Sleeth

In the bulb there is a flower  
In the seed an apple tree  
In cocoons a hidden promise  
Butterflies will soon be free  
In the cold and snow of winter  
There's a spring that waits to be  
Unrevealed until its season  
Something God alone can see

There's a song in every silence  
Seeking word and melody  
There's a dawn in every darkness  
Bringing hope to you and me  
From the past will come the future  
What it holds a mystery  
Unrevealed until its season  
Something God alone can see

In our end is our beginning  
In our time infinity  
In our doubt there is believing  
In our life eternity  
In our death a resurrection  
At the last a victory  
Unrevealed until its season  
Something God alone can see --||--

## **FAMILY TALK**

**SERMON “Blessed Are Those Who Mourn”**

**\* 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**

**MISSION MOMENT**

**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” – 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** “Meekness and Majesty”

– Composer: Graham Kendrick

Meekness and majesty  
Manhood and deity  
In perfect harmony  
The Man who is God  
Lord of eternity  
Dwells in humanity  
Kneels in humility  
And washes our feet

O what a mystery  
Meekness and majesty  
Bow down and worship  
For this is your God  
This is your God

Father's pure radiance  
Perfect in innocence  
Yet learns obedience  
To death on a cross  
Suffering to give us life  
Conquering through sacrifice  
And as they crucify  
Prays 'Father forgive'

O what a mystery  
Meekness and majesty  
Bow down and worship  
For this is your God  
This is your God

Wisdom unsearchable  
God the invisible  
Love indestructible  
In frailty appears  
Lord of infinity  
Stooping so tenderly  
Lifts our humanity  
To the heights of His throne

O what a mystery  
Meekness and majesty  
Bow down and worship  
For this is your God  
This is your God

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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. . .**

- 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.



	<b>TODAY</b> <b>25 February</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK</b> <b>3 March</b>
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Paul Cooper	Aimé Girimana
Pianist:	Eva Kwan	Lucy Lim
Lector:	Chris Law	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-