

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



Third Sunday in Lent
3 March 2024
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion Service

(*: Congregation stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG “Our Eyes Are Turned” – Composer: Taizé Community
*** CALL TO WORSHIP**
*** HYMN** “The Love of God” – Composer: Frederick M. Lehman
CALL TO CONFESSION
PRAYER OF CONFESSION
ALL RESPOND “O Lord, Have Mercy On Us” – Composer: Timothy Chan
ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.
And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.
KUC SINGERS “Create in Me a Clean Heart” – Composer: Keith Green
SCRIPTURE READING
Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet.
A light to our path.
Psalm 63 (O.T.)
Mark 5: 24-34 (N.T.)
Lord, may Your Word live in us.
And bear much fruit for Your glory.
FAMILY TALK
SERMON “Blessed Are You”
*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES' CREED**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
ALL RESPOND “Ubi Caritas” – Composer: Taizé Community
OFFERTORY

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

HYMN “Bread of Life From Heaven” – Music: Traditional; Words: Susan R. Briehl

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

* **HYMN “A Touching Place”** – Composer: John Bell, Graham Maule

* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

Please remember as you pray. . .

- Next Friday, 8 March, is International Women’s Day when the world celebrates women’s social, economic, and political achievements. It also serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for gender parity. Gender equality means equal access to rights and opportunities, regardless of gender. As we commemorate this day, let us pray that women everywhere be empowered, respected, and free. May they have equal opportunities, access to education, and the ability to thrive; let us work together to dismantle barriers and create a world where every woman’s potential is realized.
- Oil leakage from a capsized barge off the coast of Tobago has spread over hundreds of miles, reaching the Caribbean island of Bonaire. The island's east coast, including Sorobon, Lac, and Lagun, has been polluted, endangering mangroves, fish, and coral ecosystems. Let us offer a prayer for environmental protection: May the seas and shores be cleansed, and may the delicate balance of life be restored. May we act with wisdom, responsibility, and compassion to safeguard our planet for future generations.
- In Chad, the delayed presidential elections, now scheduled for May, signify the end of a political transition that commenced in 2021 following the death of former President Idriss Déby. His son, Gen Mahamat Déby, assumed power in defiance of the constitution, pledging a return to civilian rule. However, concerns persist: the electoral commission lacks neutrality, and the opposition fears the perpetuation of the Déby dynasty. Let us pray for fair elections and the emergence of true democracy in Chad: may the people’s voices be heard, and may their votes shape a future of justice, transparency, and freedom. May Chad find its path toward genuine representation and governance.
- In a significant development, three former police officers in Seoul have been sentenced for destroying evidence related to the tragic Halloween crowd crush in the city's Itaewon neighbourhood in 2022. This incident claimed the lives of nearly 160 people. As we reflect on this heartbreaking event, let us remember the families of the victims. May they be comforted now that justice finally prevailed and find peace and healing. We also pray that authorities around the world learn from the tragedy and improve crowd control measures to safeguard future large gatherings.
- Fifteen people tragically lost their lives, and more than 40 others were injured in a devastating fire that swept through an apartment building in Nanjing, China. The

blaze, which engulfed several floors of a skyscraper, is believed to have originated on the first floor, where electric bikes were stored. As we mourn the lives lost, let us pray for peace and comfort to the families affected, and may there be reflection and safety improvements to safeguard lives and prevent such tragedies in the future.

- The HK Financial Secretary announced the new budget on Wednesday. The Consumption Voucher Scheme has been dropped, government spending generally trimmed, and the income tax for the top salary group has been raised slightly while the so-called spicy property measures have been removed to try to stimulate the flagging property market. We hope that the proposed budget adequately addresses issues for the working class in the current difficult economy and that the Government will continue to pay attention to the needs of those most vulnerable.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Ireland and the United Kingdom of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

We are **thankful** for:

- the many distinct cultures in these islands and how literature, music, dance, and other traditions rooted here have enriched people around the world
- the economic and other aid that consistently have come from the area to those in the world who are most in need
- the many who have emigrated to other parts of the world, and in turn, the immigrants from these lands who are now turning the United Kingdom and Ireland into increasingly multi-ethnic, multi-religious societies
- The positive contributions Great Britain has made in world history, and the role church leaders have played in the ecumenical and interfaith movements.

We **pray** for:

- the healing of scars and memories that linger after times of colonization
- overcoming barriers so that all might experience welcome as these countries become more genuinely multi-ethnic and multi-faith
- resolving differences and political tensions over how Great Britain should relate to the rest of Europe
- dealing with the challenges of increasing secularism and the emergence of new ways of expressing religion and spirituality.

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. 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. This being the first Sunday of the month we celebrate with those born in the month of March.

Thank you, Aimé Girimana, for sharing the Word of God with us this morning.

Today, 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.

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.

A New Arrival

Our former intern, Justine Wong and her husband, Tony Lo, are blessed with the arrival of a baby son. Baby Evan was born on Tuesday, 27 February; both Mother and child are doing well.

Date For Your Diaries:

100 Acts of Service – KUC Community Activity

Flag Day for Rainlily - an NGO that provides crisis services to victims of sexual violence, empowerment programs and advocacy for gender justice.

Date: Saturday, 9 March (7 am to 12 noon) HK Island

Please speak with Pastor Phyllis if you wish to join.

	TODAY 3 March	NEXT WEEK 10 March
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Estella Yeung
Preacher:	Aimé Girimana	Hope Antone
Pianist:	Lucy Lim	Katie Ho
Lector:	Carol Yuen	Harry Chan
Intercessory Prayers:	Emmanuel Adesina	Ramon Bultron
Family Talk:	Tong Chong Sze	Maggie Mathieson
Greeter:	Sigrid Buxrud Emil Buxrud	Lucy Lim Edith San Juan
Offering Rota:	Rose Muiruri Susan Babasa	Thapa Samjhana Ching So
Counting Rota	Jennifer Chan Chan Beng Seng	Rey Asis Judy Chan
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina Tong Chong Sze Estella Yeung	Jailyn Tomitis Tong Chong Sze Gabi Baumgartner
I.T. Team:	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur	Jen Pang. Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$39,03.30- Promissory offering last week: HK\$600- Retiring Offering: \$1,860-
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