

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



Fifth Sunday in Lent
17 March 2024
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "Our Eyes Are Turned" – Taizé

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** "The Steadfast Love of the Lord" & "We Exalt You"
– Composers: E McNeil & P Sanchez Jr

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.

HYMN "Praise I Will Praise You Lord" – Composer: C Frayssé

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 103:10-13 (O.T.)

Matthew 19:14-15 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN "I Will Sing of the Mercies" – Composer: J H Filmore

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "Are You Merciful & Pure in Heart?"

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "O Lord, Hear Our Prayer" – Taizé

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* HYMN “Loving Creator”

– Music: Trad Folk, Words: D T Niles

* COMMISSION and BLESSING

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

Please remember as you pray. . .

- The International Day of Happiness, observed on 20 March annually, holds profound significance. The United Nations General Assembly established it to recognize the importance of happiness and well-being as universal aspirations for all people. In a world marked by diverse backgrounds, the call is clear: strive for an inclusive, equitable, and balanced approach to economic growth—one that fosters sustainable development, eradicates poverty, and uplifts the well-being of every individual, regardless of gender, race, political beliefs, or religious affiliations. Let us join in a collective prayer: May our world be where joy knows no boundaries, where kindness flourishes, and where the pursuit of happiness transcends borders.
- Haiti is grappling with turmoil, despair and anarchy as gang violence tightens its grip, leaving communities in fear and chaos. Political instability, economic woes, and natural disasters have woven a tapestry of suffering. The prime minister, who is exiled in Puerto Rico, has resigned, adding another layer of uncertainty. Meanwhile, a dire food crisis looms, threatening the biggest humanitarian crisis since the earthquake in 2010. Our hearts ache for the Haitian people, yearning for peace, order, and stability to reclaim their land. We pray that the winds of change blow gently, sweeping away strife and division. May leaders rise with compassion, guided by wisdom and empathy. May resilience flourish and hope bloom anew.
- As Senegal approaches its presidential election on 24 March, tensions run high. President Macky Sall, in power for 12 years, recently postponed the election, sparking protests and deadly unrest. The Constitutional Council now mandates the election by 2 April, and President Sall dissolved the government, allowing the ruling coalition’s candidate to focus on the campaign while blocking prominent opposition leaders from campaigning. Amid accusations of a constitutional coup, Senegal strives for fair, transparent elections. Let us pray that wisdom guides leaders, justice prevails, and the people’s voices resonate peacefully.
- Beijing has been struggling to restore confidence in the country’s ailing real estate industry. It appears to be working flat out to prevent China Vanke, the biggest property developer in China, going the way of Evergrande and Country Garden, which both defaulted on their debts and are at risk of being liquidated. China’s real estate sector faces a critical juncture as it grapples with a crisis that began in 2021. Evergrande, the world’s most indebted developer, defaulted on its international debt, triggering a domino effect. The fallout has eroded confidence among homebuyers, businesses, and investors, posing broader economic risks. We hope the country will ensure transparency and fair legislation to protect homebuyers and restore confidence.

- The Hong Kong early education sector confronts a double challenge: emigration and a declining birthrate. With a record-high 19.1% turnover rate among preschool teachers and 17 kindergartens closing down, educators feel that kindergarten jobs are no longer secure. Many teachers are switching to primary schools or leaving the sector altogether. Despite this crisis, authorities maintain that there are no staffing issues. As graduates hesitate to join the industry, nurturing the city's future generations becomes increasingly difficult. Let us pray for the government to collaborate earnestly with educators, parents, and industry experts, weaving a safety net for our little learners to ensure quality education for all. May they invest not only in infrastructure but also in the hearts and minds of those who shape young minds—the teachers, the caregivers, the unsung heroes.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

We are **thankful** for:

- preservation of these countries' distinct cultural practices, literature, music and natural resources.
- the faithful witness of Christians during times of persecution and for those who survived times of occupation.
- how these countries peacefully became independent after 1918 and 1991.
- new-found freedoms that the people here have experienced, that they might be used for the good of all.

We **pray** for:

- peaceful relations with Russia and among all the ethnic groups in these lands.
- the healing of old wounds remaining from 20th-century struggles.
- just economic development that benefits all citizens in these countries and for those who live and work abroad.
- governmental leaders and all people so that they might together strive for justice, peace, and the well-being of all.

For the Congregation

- Pray for Paul Wong, Kevin Ng, Jeanette Lee, Hend, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Joy Babasa, Julianne Long, and Revd. and Mrs. Kwok, who are facing health challenges that require body strength restoration.
- 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, Pastor Phyllis, for sharing the Word of God with us this morning.

Every Sunday Morning

Contemplative Prayer – organised by the Christian Education Committee

When: Sunday from 9:00 to 9:30 am

Where: Upper Fellowship Hall

Today 'Body As Home' – Fundraising Activity for Kowloon Union Church

Organised by The Int'l School of Somatic Education

Venue: Lower Fellowship Hall

Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Please scan the QR code to register.



Today: The Art Workshop is cancelled today. A new date will be announced next week.

Date For Your Diaries:

Wednesday, 20 March

Peacemaking Fellowship Outing Activities

A Guided Tour is offered by Tai Kwun for us to visit the exhibition

“Green Snake: Women-Centred Ecologies”. The tour will be

Conducted in English, and all are welcome to join us!

Date: 20 March (Wednesday) at 3pm Gathering time at KUC: 2:15pm

Exhibition venue: 1/F JC Contemporary & F Hall, Prison Yard, Tai Kwun, Central

The tour is free of charge.

Please register by scanning QR code or contact Katie (9623 1976) for enquiries.



Thursday, 4 April

Congregational Retreat organized by the Christian Education Committee

Venue: Tao Fung Shan Christian Centre, Tai Wai

Time: 9 am – 5 pm

Fee : HK\$100 (this includes lunch and minibus fare from Tai Wai to the Centre) **Concession Fee:** HK\$50

Scan the QR code to register. For more information, speak to Pastor Phyllis.



	TODAY 17 March	NEXT WEEK 24 March
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Phyllis Wong	
Pianist:	Joshua Pang	Lucy Lim
Lector:	Guy Syrette	Sunday School
Intercessory Prayers:	Venus Cheng	Sunday School
Family Talk:	Chan Beng Seng	
Greeter:	Edna Lai Jacob	Edwina Antonio Sunday School
Offering Rota:	Anjenette Bolanos Susan Babasa	Daddy Sunday School
Counting Rota	Chan Beng Seng Ramon Bultron	Joram Calimutan Ramon Bultron
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina Tong Chong Sze Gabi Baumgartner	Only Sunday School for youngest children
I.T. Team:	Amber Tong Bervinder Kaur	Amber Tong Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$2,587-
Promissory offering last week: HK\$4,050-