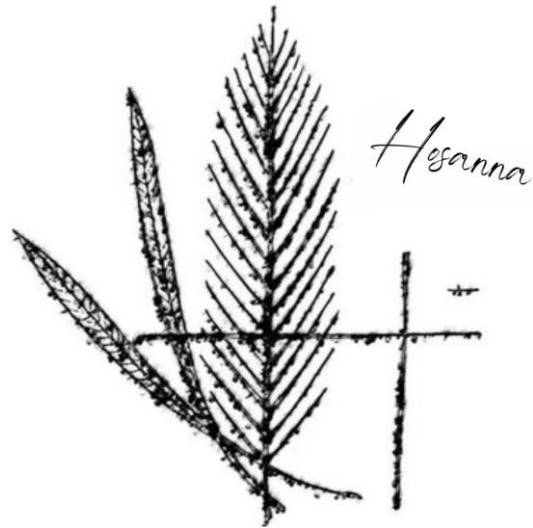


Kowloon Union Church  
"Where all are one"  
4 Jordan Road, Kowloon  
Tel. 2367-2585 • kuc@kuc.hk  
Secretary: Candy Lam  
Social Ministry Worker: Katie Ho  
Minister: Maggie Mathieson  
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong

**Sixth Sunday in Lent**  
**24 March 2024**  
**Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

(\*: Congregation stands)



### APPROACH

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN** "Hosanna, Hosanna" – Composer: C Tuttle

Hosanna hosanna	Lord, we lift up Your Name,
Hosanna in the highest	with hearts full of praise.
Hosanna hosanna	be exalted, O Lord my God -
Hosanna in the highest	hosanna, in the highest.

\* **HYMN** "Hosanna, Hosanna" – Composer: C Tuttle

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL RESPOND** "Change Our Heart O God" – Composer: E. Espinosa

#### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

### THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.**

**HYMN** "Shout to The Lord" – Composer: D Zschech

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

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

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** "Jumping Up and Down" – Composer: R Evans

#### **FAMILY TALK**

**SERMON** "Persecuted Peacemaker"

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

## THE OFFERTORY

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**MISSION MOMENT**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL RESPOND** "O Lord, Hear Our Prayer"

– Taizé

**OFFERTORY**

**THE PEACE**

\* **HYMN** "Jesus Christ is Waiting" – Music: Trad. ; Words: J.Bell, G Maule

\* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

**Please remember as you pray. . .**

- Humanity faces an unsustainable waste crisis due to excessive production and consumption. Annually, households, small businesses, and public services generate 2.1 to 2.3 billion tons of municipal solid waste, including packaging, electronics, plastics, and food. 30 March is International Day of Zero Waste: may this annual event remind us of the critical importance of bolstering waste management globally. It celebrates zero-waste initiatives at all levels, contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Achieving zero-waste societies requires collaboration from consumers, governments, communities, and industries. We pray that everyone be mindful of our waste habits and choose an environmentally-friendly lifestyle, cherishing our planet for generations to come.
- In Bolivia, heavy rains have prompted authorities to declare a state of emergency. Nearly 50 people have died in deluges across the country since the rainy season began in January, with landslides and overflowing rivers wreaking havoc. Let us pray for the victims, their families, and the tireless rescue efforts. May compassion and resilience prevail during this challenging time.
- Civilians are caught in Sudan's brutal civil war where there are harrowing accounts of rape, ethnic violence, and street executions. The struggle between Sudan's military and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary group has claimed over 14,000 lives, and reporters, facing enormous risks, have witnessed a devastating impact on innocent lives. UN officials warn that Sudan faces one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent history. The conflict threatens to trigger the world's largest hunger emergency. Let us uplift our prayers for the people of Sudan. May compassion envelop Sudan. Let healing replace hatred, and peace rise from the ashes. Our hearts ache for the victims, and we pray for their safety, resilience, and a brighter dawn.
- Chinese regulators have accused Evergrande, the insolvent property developer and its founder, of inflating revenues by a staggering US\$78 billion. The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) swiftly imposed a hefty penalty of 4.175 billion yuan (\$580 million) on Hengda Real Estate, Evergrande's main Chinese unit. Xu Jiayin, the group's founder and former China's richest man, faces a fine of 47 million yuan (\$6.5 million) and a lifetime ban from securities markets. The investigation, spanning eight months, revealed a web of violations, including

fabricated sales figures and failure to disclose crucial information. This alleged fraud, totalling 564.1 billion yuan (\$78 billion) over two years, marks mainland China's most significant financial scandal. Let us pray for transparency, justice, and stability in financial markets and for the regulators to act diligently to protect investors in Hong Kong.

- Hong Kong's legislature has swiftly passed a new national security legislation, locally known as Article 23, which gives new powers that critics fear will align the city's national security laws more closely with those on the Chinese mainland. The extensive 212-page bill introduces 39 additional national security crimes, including treason, espionage, and handling state secrets. The most severe offences could lead to life imprisonment. While China and Hong Kong's leaders argue that these laws are necessary to "plug loopholes" and restore stability after the 2019 protests, critics worry about their broad scope. Legal experts and business leaders warn that the law may further suppress civil society and impact information exchange, particularly in the financial sector. Let us pray for a balance between security and freedom in this complex landscape.

### **For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia.

We are **thankful** for:

- the faithful witness of Christians here through the centuries, especially in times of occupation and persecution
- the peaceful resolution of disputes
- the distinctive cultural contributions and resources in these lands
- the religious freedom and ecumenical cooperation that is growing.

We **pray** for:

- greater respect for the Roma people and others who are marginalized and who lack adequate livelihoods in these lands
- welcoming and engaging those of other faiths and ethnicities
- growth in spiritual as well as physical health
- democratic governance that advances God's justice and peace for 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.

### **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 – 2:30 pm. Please scan the QR code to register.



### Dates For Your Diaries:

**Next Sunday: Easter Sunday Pot Luck Lunch. Please add your name and your dish to the notice board.**

#### **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 transportation fee from Tai Wai)

**Concession Fee:** HK\$50

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



#### **Saturday, 6 April 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: 6 April

Time: 4-6 pm

Venue: KUC Space - Scan the QR code for registration.



#### **Sunday, 7 April, 12 noon to 2 pm: 'Discipleship: Then And Now'**

Join us in our third session of the series when we think more about the stories of 'The Inner Circle', those disciples most frequently mentioned.

Venue: Lower Fellowship Hall

Light lunch provided

Scan the QR code to reserve your place at lunch.



**Sunday, 12 May – EGM and AGM after worship; more details will follow.**

	<b>TODAY 24 March</b>
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Maggie Mathieson
Pianist:	Lucy Lim
Lector:	Estella Yeung
Intercessory Prayers:	Phyllis Wong
Family Talk:	Tong Chong Sze
Greeter:	Edwina Antonio, Bright and David
Offering Rota:	Daddy, Edith San Juan
Counting Rota	Joram Calimutan, Ramon Bultron
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina, Jailyn Tomitis, Lydia Cathedral
I.T. Team:	Amber Tong, Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$4615.60-  
Promissory offering last week: HK\$1,200-  
Welfare Fund: HK\$5,000-