

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



Easter Sunday
31 March 2024
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(* : Congregation stands)

APPROACH

EASTER GREETING SONG "Halle Halle-Halle-lujah"

– Trad: Folk music; Arr: T. MacArthur

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

* **HYMN** "Lord of the Dance"

– Composer: S B Carter

OPENING PRAYER

LITURGICAL DANCE

– UCCP-HK

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

KUC SINGERS "Wonderful Grace of Jesus"

– Composer: H Lilenas

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Mark 16: 1 - 8 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

EASTER DRAMA "Easter Attitudes"

– OBIC

SERMON

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL RESPOND "Ubi Caritas"

– Music: Taizé Community

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

SOLO DANCE ‘Above All Powers’

– KUC Ms J Tomitis

***HYMN** “You are Holy You are Whole”

– Composer: P Harling

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

* **HYMN** “Because He Lives”

– Composers: W & G Gaither

* **COMMISSION**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

- Hallelujah, Christ has risen! We commemorated Jesus’ last supper on Maundy Thursday and His crucifixion on Good Friday. Today, we celebrate the pinnacle of Holy Week: Easter Sunday. Today marks the triumph of Christ over death as we remember how He died for our sins. Because Jesus defeated death, we can have hope in this life and in eternity.
- All around the world, churches celebrate Easter in different ways. In El Salvador, men dress as “talcoiguines”, playfully whipping the Catholic faithful, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. Meanwhile, in Sweden, children dress up as Easter witches, trading their artwork for candy while roaming their neighbourhoods. In Haux, France, residents serve an enormous omelette made from over 4,500 eggs, feeding up to 1,000 people on Easter Monday. Throughout Africa, churches are adorned with butterfly- and flower-patterned cloths during the Easter season. Church services and vigils are central to the celebration, commemorating Jesus’ resurrection. In the Philippines, a unique dual procession occurs: men follow an image of the risen Jesus, while women follow Jesus’ mother, Mary, wearing a black veil. The two groups meet at the church, symbolizing Jesus comforting Mary after His resurrection, and girls dressed as angels remove Mary’s veil (called a lambong) in joyful celebration! Here in KUC, we have our own tradition of Easter egg hunt! So pay attention to the liturgist!
- There is a glimmer of hope for peace talks on Sudan to resume in Saudi Arabia around 18 April, according to U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan, Tom Perriello. Washington emphasizes inclusivity in negotiations with warring parties, including the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, IGAD (regional East African bloc), and the African Union. The situation is critical, and the UAE’s involvement is under scrutiny. We pray for peace to prevail in Sudan. May all the efforts to resolve conflicts peacefully be blessed, and the people can return to their homes and families as soon as possible.
- Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin seeks to rejuvenate the economy with a 500 billion baht (US\$13.7 billion) handout scheme. The controversial “digital wallet” initiative

would transfer 10,000 baht (\$275) to 50 million Thais for spending within six months. While some experts criticize it as fiscally irresponsible, the government aims to distribute the funds in Q4, beyond the initial May target. The state planning agency has revised 2024 growth projections downward, emphasizing the need for economic revival. Let us pray for the well-being of the people of Thailand during these challenging times.

- In Afghanistan, teenage girls face a harrowing plight as the Taliban's education ban denies them the chance to return to school. For over 900 days, girls aged 12 and above have been barred from education. Despite promises of readmission once issues were resolved, the curriculum's "Islamic" alignment remains elusive. Unicef reports that 1.4 million Afghan girls suffer due to this ban. Let us pray for gender equality, especially in education, so that Afghan girls may thrive, their full potential can be realized and contribute to their nation's progress.
- Art Central Celebrates Contemporary Art in Hong Kong. The annual Art Central event returns to the Central Harbourfront, showcasing contemporary art. With over 50 exceptional local artists and more than 30 galleries, this year's exhibition promises to be the most extensive during Hong Kong Art Week. Among the talents featured is Ho Sin-tung, whose martial arts-inspired installation invites viewers to explore beyond traditional art forms. Let us pray for the flourishing of young artists in Hong Kong, that their imagination and creativity may soar, enriching our world with their unique expressions. We also pray that the Government recognizes the importance of providing the space and the environment that facilitate freedom of expression for all great art.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in The Balkans - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Slovenia.

We are **thankful** for:

- the rich legacies that this area has long embodied
- those who kept both the people and their faith alive during years of repression
- those pursuing peace and reconciliation between the different ethnic and religious groups
- the resurgence of the ecumenical witness of churches in recent years.

We **pray** for:

- a continual healing of historic memories and pains that have been mutually inflicted
- those who continue to experience marginalization and injustice, especially the Roma
- religion to be a means of healing rather than of further separation and exploitation
- the nurturing and sustaining of pluralistic societies in the Balkans.

For the Congregation

- Pray for Paul Wong, Kevin Ng, Jeanette Lee, Hend, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Joy Babasa, Julianne Long, and Revd. 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 us for a time of 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 ‘Dancing into Homecoming’

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:

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.

	TODAY 31 March	
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Celebrant: Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Grace Bok	Pianist: Eva Kwan
Lector:	KUC	Prayers: UCCP-HK
Drama Team	OBIC/KUC	Dance Team: UCCP-HK
Greeter:	OBIC, KUC, UCCP	Offering Rota: OBIC, KUC, UCCP-HK
Counting Rota	Paul Wong, Ramon Bultron	No Sunday School Today
I.T. Team:	Bervinder Kaur	Venus Cheng

Freewill offering last week: HK\$2,783 -
Promissory offering last week: HK\$1,300 -