

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

Halle, halle, halle - lujah!

Halle, halle, halle - lujah!

Halle, halle, halle - lujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

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*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Our long journey through the darkness is over!

**All: We have danced into the light of Jesus’
resurrection!**

No more do we need to fear!

No more will we feel that we are alone and lost!

Jesus lives in our hearts and our spirits!

Jesus calls us to be a source of hope and joy for others!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

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

– Composer: S B Carter

I danced in the morning
When the world was begun
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth
At Bethlehem I had My birth

Dance then wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the Dance said He
And I'll lead you all
Wherever you may be
And I'll lead you all
In the Dance said He

I danced for the scribe
And the Pharisee
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow Me
I danced for the fishermen
For James and John
They came with Me
And the dance went on

Dance then wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the Dance said He
And I'll lead you all
Wherever you may be

And I'll lead you all
In the Dance said He

I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame
The holy people said it was a shame
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung Me on high
And they left Me there
On a Cross to die

Dance then wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the Dance said He
And I'll lead you all
Wherever you may be
And I'll lead you all
In the Dance said He

I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back
They buried My body
And they thought I'd gone
But I am the dance
And I still go on

Dance then wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the Dance said He

And I'll lead you all
Wherever you may be
And I'll lead you all
In the Dance said He

They cut Me down
And I leapt up high
I am the life
That'll never never die
I'll live in you
If you'll live in Me
I am the Lord
Of the Dance said He

Dance then wherever you may be
I am the Lord of the Dance said He
And I'll lead you all
Wherever you may be
And I'll lead you all
In the Dance said He
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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.)

16 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

3 They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” 4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.

He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”

8 So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

SERMON

*** 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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL RESPOND “Ubi Caritas” – Music: Taizé Community

Ubi caritas et amor,

ubi caritas, Deus Ibi Est. --||--

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

You are holy, you are whole,

You are always ever more

than we ever understand.

You are always at hand.

Blessed are you coming near.

Blessed are you coming here

to your church in wine and bread,

raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy,

you are wholeness,

you are present.

Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!

Sing hosanna in the highest!

Sing hosanna!

Sing hosanna to our God!

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INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Risen Lord is with us

We rejoice in God's Presence.

We lift up our hearts.

We lift our hearts to the Lord.

We give thanks to God,

who creates and sustains all things.

Loving God

In the fullness of time you gave us Jesus Christ,

Who entered into the world as your servant,

To heal,

To liberate,

To proclaim the Good News of your kingdom.

As a sign of God's presence among us, our Lord Jesus

prepared a meal of bread and wine, a celebration,

of life over death

of love over fear

of union over separation.

Christ lives in us,

and we in Christ,

In Christ we are set free :

a new creation.

Confirmed for us in bread and wine,

a meal of jubilation.

In celebration of Jesus' resurrection, we proclaim:
Christ is risen! Alleluia!

SANCTUS

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might
Heaven and Earth are full of Your Glory;
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit,
bless this bread that earth has given
and human hands have made.
Bless also this fruit of the vine,
created for our gladness.
Make them the food and drink of everlasting life, body
surrendered, blood poured out.

**As we rejoice in the resurrection,
give us love for each other,
and make us servants of peace,
until your Kingdom is revealed,
and every creature beholds it.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus, who lives
and presides at this table, our host and our feast.**

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.**

DISTRIBUTION

L: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia

Sisters and brothers, come to receive Christ's gift of eternal life and hope.

**All: We come to receive with faith and thanksgiving.
Amen.**

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live." (John 11:25)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus,
for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.**

**Give us the gifts of this holy communion –
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day,
and risen life that never ends.
In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.**

* **HYMN** “Because He Lives” – Composers: W & G Gaither
God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy they bring;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,

Just because He lives!

And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

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* **COMMISSION**

Christ has risen!

Christ has spoken!

Christ has called us

to bring Good News

of healing and forgiveness.

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 "talciguines", 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 to the Centre) **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 -