

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



**Second Sunday After Easter**  
**7 April 2024**  
**Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.**  
**Holy Communion Service**

(\*: Congregation stands)

**APPROACH**

**PREPARATION SONG** “El Senyor – ( In The Lord ) ” – Composer: Taizé Com.  
**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**  
**\* HYMN** “At the Dawning of Salvation ” – Composer: J. Curle  
**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** “Lord, I lift Your Name on High” – Composer: R. Founds

**SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

Psalm 133 (O.T.)

Acts 4:32-35 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

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

**FAMILY TALK**

**SERMON**

**\* 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** “You Are Holy”

– 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** “The Servant King”

– Composer: G. Kendrick

\* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

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

- Today is World Health Day, observed annually on April 7th, to commemorate the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. This special day aims to unite people worldwide to prioritize health and raise awareness about urgent health issues. The WHO plays a crucial role in global health governance, ensuring health is a universal right. With over 4.5 billion people lacking full health coverage, collective action is vital. Let us give thanks to WHO's tireless work: may they guide the path toward equity, cleanse the air, nourish bodies, and banish discrimination. May World Health Day ignite compassion, resilience, and hope for all.
- Devastating drought and famine is affecting rural Zimbabwe and neighboring countries such as Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Angola, Mozambique, and Madagascar. The region has experienced a cycle of extreme weather conditions, including tropical storms, floods, and prolonged droughts, which have worsened the impacts of climate change. The United Nations Children's Fund has described the situation as overlapping extreme weather crises. As climate change exacerbates these challenges, the need for immediate assistance and sustainable solutions becomes increasingly urgent. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected (estimated at over 2.7 million) by the drought and famine, and we appeal to the world to extend a helping hand in providing essential aid and support to alleviate their suffering.
- Brazil and France have announced a joint investment program to protect the Amazon rainforest. The program involves 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) in private and public funds over the next four years. The announcement was made during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Brazil. The two countries have pledged to work together to combat deforestation in the Amazon by 2030, contributing to efforts to slow global warming. They also expressed commitment to the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of tropical forests. During the visit, Macron honored Indigenous leader Raoni Metuktire for his fight to protect the rainforest and Indigenous rights. We give thanks for this initiative and pray that more and more countries will collaborate to help to save our planet.

- Taiwan experienced a powerful 7.4 magnitude earthquake on Wednesday, the strongest in 25 years, causing significant damage and claiming at least nine lives. The quake struck the eastern coast, resulting in collapsed buildings, landslides, and power outages. Rescue efforts are underway to save those trapped and provide assistance to affected areas. We pray for the success of the rescue teams so that they may find survivors and provide comfort to the victims and their families. May those injured receive swift healing and support. May the souls of the departed rest in peace. Our thoughts are with Taiwan during this challenging time.
- The 2023 World Air Quality Report reveals that Bangladesh, Pakistan, and India have the worst air pollution in South Asia. Bangladesh's PM2.5 levels are nearly 16 times higher than the WHO standard, while Pakistan and India also face significant pollution challenges. Factors contributing to poor air quality include industrial emissions, agricultural waste burning, solid fuel usage, and vehicle emissions. The report highlights the detrimental effects on health, including low birth weight and reduced life expectancy. Let us pray for governments and environmental agencies to take responsibility for addressing pollution, unite and take decisive action to protect the health and well-being of millions affected by air pollution in South Asia. May they implement effective measures and find sustainable solutions to improve air quality and safeguard the lives of their citizens.
- Hongkongers can now change the gender markers on their identity cards without undergoing full sex reassignment surgeries, thanks to revised criteria following a landmark court ruling. The Court of Final Appeal upheld the rights of two transgender residents who sought to change their cards without invasive procedures. The government revised the policy, considering legal and medical advice as well as practices overseas. Applicants still have to complete select surgical procedures, provide medical proof, and a statutory declaration confirming gender dysphoria. They must also show evidence of hormonal treatment for two years prior to applying. We give thanks for The Court's decision to recognize the infringement on privacy rights and ensures equal treatment for transgender individuals.

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

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania.

We are **thankful** for:

- the blending of Christian traditions and practices from the West and East
- the faithful witness of churches amid political changes
- those working for more democratic governance in these countries
- those who welcome newcomers and provide for them and others in need.

We **pray** for:

- better relationships among different ethnic groups and traditions
- respect for the rights of children, women, the young and the elderly so they can receive adequate education, jobs and health care
- economic developments that serve all people
- ending practices that harm the air, soil and forests, and installing instead measures to protect the environment.

## For the Congregation

- Pray for Paul Wong, Kevin Ng, Jeanette Lee, Hend, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Joy Babasa, Julianne Long, Revd. Kwok and Ajmal Samuel 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

### Dates For Your Diaries:

**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</b><br><b>7 April</b>                  | <b>NEXT WEEK</b><br><b>14 April</b>                               |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Liturgist:                | Maggie Mathieson                                | Maggie Mathieson  |
| Preacher:                 | Phyllis Wong                                    | Sam Dubbelman   |
| Pianist:                  | Lucy Lim  | Katie Ho  |
| Lector:                   | Paul Wong                                       | Holly Chui  |
| Intercessory Prayers:     | Robert Lam                                      | Tory Caplan   |
| Family Talk:              | Chan Beng Seng                                  | Maggie Mathieson  |
| Greeter:                  | Paul Wong<br>Susan Babasa                       | Lucy Lim<br>Emmanuel Adesina                                      |
| Offering Rota:            | Rose Muiriri<br>Ching So                        | Thapa Samjhana<br>Edith San Juan                                  |
| Counting Rota             | Ramon Bultron<br>Chan Beng Seng                 | Lucy Lim  |
| Sunday School<br>Leaders: | Mary Adesina<br>Jailyn Tomitis<br>Estella Yeung | Mary Adesina<br>Jailyn Tomitis<br>Tong Chong Sze<br>Estella Yeung |
| I.T. Team:                | Jen Pang<br>Bervinder Kaur                      | Venus Cheng<br>Bervinder Kaur                                     |

Freewill offering last week: HK\$4,042.90-

Promissory offering last week: HK\$800-