

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



Third Sunday After Easter
14 April 2024
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG “Be Still and Know” – Composer: Anon

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** “Yours Be the Glory” – Music: Handel; Words: E Budry, R Hoyle

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND “Change Our Heart O God” – Composer: E Espinoza

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

*** HYMN** “Jesus Stand Among Us” – Composer: G Kendrick

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 4 (O.T.)

Luke 24: 36 – 48 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

*** HYMN** “Walk with Light”

– Music: E. Lindgren; Words: S Kaala, E Broadbridge

FAMILY TALK

SERMON “When You Are Disturbed”

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** “In Christ Alone”

– Composer: K Getty; S Townend

* **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 Chagas Disease Day. This devastating illness primarily affects marginalized communities without adequate healthcare access and a political voice. With a slow and often asymptomatic progression, Chagas disease can lead to severe cardiac and digestive complications if left untreated, resulting in fatalities. Raising awareness and advocating for equitable healthcare would improve early detection rates and comprehensive follow-up care. Let us pray for support to those affected by Chagas disease, ensuring they receive the necessary resources and services.
- A tragic maritime incident occurred off the northern coast of Mozambique last Sunday, resulting in the loss of at least 94 lives, including children, with 26 individuals still missing. The overloaded fishing boat, which was not authorized for passenger transport, capsized while ferrying people from Lunga to the Island of Mozambique. Initial reports suggest a tidal wave may have hit it. It is heartbreaking to learn that many on board were attempting to escape the mainland due to a cholera outbreak fueled by disinformation. We pray for the victims and their families, asking for comfort and strength during this difficult time. May this incident remind us of the dangers of disinformation and the importance of accurate and timely information to prevent such disasters in the future.
- In a positive development, deforestation in Brazil's Amazon has seen a significant reduction of 40% in the first three months of 2024 compared to the previous year, based on data from space research agency INPE. These findings follow a 50% drop in deforestation in 2023. President Lula has prioritized environmental protection and pledged to end illegal clearing by 2030. The government intends to invest 730 million reais (\$145.87 million) in anti-deforestation efforts and is proposing a global fund to support forest conservation. Brazil has gained support from other countries and is in talks with Norway, Britain, Germany, and France to secure backing for the fund. We give thanks for these collective efforts to safeguard our environment and promote a sustainable future.
- A heartwarming story emerged from Taiwan after a Labrador Retriever, initially deemed unfit for a career as a drug-sniffing dog due to his friendly and playful nature, became a hero during the recent 7.4-magnitude earthquake. Rescue dogs played a vital role in locating survivors and victims following the devastating tremor, and one of them was Roger, an 8-year-old Labrador. Despite his past failure, Roger and his handlers ventured into the damaged Taroko National Park, where they discovered the body of a missing young woman. This inspiring tale serves as a reminder that God has given unique talents to each of us that can contribute positively, even if they don't align with our initial expectations.
- Yet another property developer is in financial woe. Shimao Group, a Shanghai-based property giant, has received a liquidation petition from China Construction Bank

(Asia), joining the list of troubled developers facing legal action from creditors in China's real estate sector. The petition relates to a financial obligation of approximately HK\$1,579.5 million (US\$204 million). Shimaoplan plans to vigorously oppose the petition and continue working on an offshore restructuring to maximize value for stakeholders. The challenges in China's real estate industry began with government restrictions on excessive borrowing in 2020, leading to numerous defaults by developers. These economic problems have become a burden on the broader economy, which is already facing various challenges. We pray that the government addresses these economic issues and protects the interests of homebuyers and stakeholders in these difficult times.

- Last Wednesday, a devastating fire erupted in a 60-year-old tenement building on Jordan Road, just across the road from our church building, resulting in the tragic loss of at least five lives and leaving 36 others injured. The building housed 35 guesthouses for travellers and many subdivided flats. The Fire Services Department found plastic boxes and electric wiring in the lobby, which may have contributed to the fire, the cause of which is still under investigation. We pray for the souls of the victims and the full recovery of the injured. May they and their families find solace and strength during this traumatic time of pain and loss.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine.

We are **thankful** for:

- the distinctive icons, art, literature and music that have come from this area
- the faithful witness of churches under the reign of Communism and their revitalization since then, after decades of official atheism
- all those who help to alleviate the suffering of people due to the conflict in Ukraine and who try to counteract and overcome divisions
- those who work for democracy and openness in government.

We **pray** for:

- guidance as these nations work to reconfigure political and economic structures
- compassion and integrity for all peoples in these nations with such diverse ethnic histories
- those who suffer from alcoholism, HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and other life-threatening diseases
- the large numbers of people who now live in poverty and are unemployed
- those in Belarus and Ukraine who suffer from the continued effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster
- those who struggle for democracy and truthfulness in the media.

For the Congregation

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

Tonight – We Remember Our Neighbours in Wah Fung Building

A time of prayer and remembrance for our neighbours in Jordan Road after Wednesday's devastating fire. Please join us as we remember.

Time: 6:00 pm Venue: KUC Sanctuary Language: Bi-lingual

Special Request

In the last few weeks, accusations of harassment have been lodged against the former Pastor of The Blessed Minority Community Church. As a church, we have worked with BMCC on many occasions; both churches are members of The Covenant Rainbow. So, friends, let us be united in Christ and pray as a community facing this difficult time together. Please scan the QR code to read the Anti-Harassment Statement and Guidelines adopted by Kowloon Union Church.



Date For Your Diaries:

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

	TODAY 14 April	NEXT WEEK 21 April
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Sam Dubbelman	Maggie Mathieson
Pianist:	Katie Ho	Joshua Pang
Lector:	Holly Chui	Kenneth Kui
Intercessory Prayers:	Tory Caplan	Paul Lucas
Family Talk:	Maggie Mathieson	Tong Chong Sze
Greeter:	Lucy Lim Emmanuel Adesina	Edna Lai Susan Babasa
Offering Rota:	Thapa Samjhana Edith San Juan	Anjenette Bolanos Ronald Chui
Counting Rota	Lucy Lim Paul Wong	TBC
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis Estella Yeung	Mary Adesina Tong Chong Sze Estella Yeung
I.T. Team:	Venus Cheng Bervinder Kaur	Amber Tong Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$4,191-
Promissory offering last week: HK\$8,940-
Welfare Fund: HK\$5,000-