

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

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am God

In Thee O Lord I put my trust

In Thee O Lord I put my trust

In Thee O Lord I put my trust

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*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Doubt and fear are gone!

All: Light and hope abound!

Where we once felt alone and lost;

Christ has come to walk again with us.

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! AMEN.

* **HYMN** “Yours Be the Glory”

– Music: Handel; Words: E Budry, R Hoyle

Yours be the glory
Risen conquering Son
Endless is the victory over death You won
Angels robed in splendour
Rolled the stone away
Kept the folded grave clothes
Where Your body lay

Yours be the glory
Risen conquering Son
Endless is the victory
Over death You won

See Jesus meets us
Risen from the tomb
Lovingly He greets us
Scatters fear and gloom
Let the church with gladness
Hymns of triumph sing
For her Lord is living
Death has lost its sting

Yours be the glory
Risen conquering Son
Endless is the victory
Over death You won

No more we doubt You
Glorious prince of life
What is life without You
Aid us in our strife
Make us more than conquerors
Through Your deathless love
Bring us safe through Jordan
To Your home above

Yours be the glory
Risen conquering Son
Endless is the victory
Over death You won --||--

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and righteous one,
we are stunned by the miracles
of new life and forgiveness you offer.
When our awe turns to disbelief,
renew us with your joy.
When our fear turns to rejection,
lead us into your presence.
When our stumbling leads to sin,
forgive us by your grace,
and direct our steps
in your paths of righteousness.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

ALL RESPOND “Change Our Heart O God”

– Composer: E Espinoza

Change our heart, O God,
Make us ever true;
Change our heart, O God,
May we be like you. --||--

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

Jesus stand among us
At the meeting of our lives
Be our sweet agreement
At the meeting of our eyes

O Jesus we love You
So we gather here
Join our hearts in unity
And take away our fear

So to You we're gathering
Out of each and every land
Christ the love between us
At the joining of our hands

O Jesus we love You
So we gather here
Join our hearts in unity
And take away our fear --||--

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 4 (O.T.)

1 Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

2 How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? Selah

3 But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

4 When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Selah

5 Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

6 There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

7 You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

8 I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Luke 24: 36 – 48 (N.T.)

36 While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

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

Walk with light in the darkness

Walk where the Lord has gone

Someone is walking beside you.

Walk in light. Come on!

Walk with hope for the others.

Walk with the deepest trust.

Walk through the lengthening shadows.

Walk and know you must.

Walk through fear with your courage.

Walk and you will receive

Light breaking up the darkness

Walk as you believe.

Walk as though life is starting

Walk with peace from above

Walk with your heartbeat singing

Walk His way of love. --||--

FAMILY TALK

SERMON “When You Are Disturbed”

*** 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

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.**

ALL RESPOND “ Ubi Caritas”

– Taizé

**Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas, Deus Ibi Est.**

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OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* HYMN “In Christ Alone”

– Composer: K Getty; S Townend

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day

Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand --||--

*** 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). Shimao 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 of the 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-