

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



Fourth Sunday After Easter
21 April 2024
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG “Sing Alleluia” – Composer: L. Stassen

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

* **HYMN** “The Love of God” – Music/Words: Frederick M. Lehman

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** “Seek Ye First” – Composer: K Lafferty

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Isaiah 61: 1 - 11 (O.T.)

Matthew 20: 1 - 16 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

* **HYMN** “Creator God” – Composer: M Rizza

FAMILY TALK

SERMON

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "Ubi Caritas"

– Taizé

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* HYMN "Go Tell Everyone"

– Composer: A. Dale

* COMMISSION and BLESSING

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

Please remember as you pray. . .

- Coral reefs around the world are experiencing the fourth global bleaching event in the past three decades. The bleaching is caused by climate change, as rising ocean temperatures lead corals to expel the algae living in their tissues. This event has affected at least 54 countries and territories since February 2023. The Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the largest coral reef system on Earth, has been severely impacted, as have other regions. Pray for protection of this vital part of our marine ecosystem.
- Tomorrow is World Mother Earth Day, we are reminded of the urgent need for collective action to protect our planet. Nature is suffering from plastic pollution, acidifying oceans, extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss caused by human activities. We must address climate change, deforestation, intensive agriculture, and illegal wildlife trade to prevent further destruction. This year, as we celebrate within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, let us recognize that healthy ecosystems are crucial for a sustainable future. We pray for the world to join together in harmony with nature and work towards restoring our world.
- Insurance companies are being urged to reject support for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) due to its devastating impact on local communities and contribution to climate change. The EACOP, if completed, will stretch from western Uganda to eastern Tanzania. Human Rights Watch has highlighted that the project's land acquisition process has already harmed thousands of livelihoods, leading to food insecurity and household debt. Civil society groups have called for renewable energy development instead. Insurance companies are being criticized for enabling fossil fuel projects inconsistent with climate goals. We pray for insurers and global businesses to prioritize their ESG responsibilities over profits and development.
- The number of dengue fever deaths in Peru has tripled this year, with the epidemic hitting poor areas the hardest. The government has approved an emergency decree to enhance measures against the outbreak, exacerbated by climate change. We pray for the Peruvian government to implement effective measures to save lives and combat the dengue fever outbreak and for rich countries and NGOs to lend a helping hand.
- The people of Ladakh, a remote Indian territory in the Himalayas, face challenges due to climate change, development, and border tensions with China. Nomadic tribes in Ladakh have been barred from accessing grazing lands by the Indian military, citing border security concerns. This has affected their livelihoods and traditional way of life. The people of Ladakh fear that industrial projects and an influx of people could further damage their way of life. Climate change and tourism have already impacted traditional livelihoods, and the restrictions on grazing lands worsen the situation. The nomadic way of life in Ladakh is gradually disappearing, and the

people are calling for measures to protect their culture and environment. Let us pray for peace and international collaboration to protect people's way of life and to facilitate that the earth's resources are being shared for the betterment of people's lives.

- Hong Kong's lawmakers have pledged to accelerate legislative efforts to address non-compliance with fire safety orders and impose stricter penalties following a recent deadly fire that killed five people and injured 43. The blaze at the New Lucky House building in Yau Ma Tei highlighted the failure to address a fire safety order issued 16 years ago and damaged fire-resistant doors on multiple floors. The Chief Executive promises to table legal amendments within two to three months and hopes for their passage this year. The government also plans to prioritize prosecution for buildings with immediate fire or structural hazards, which requires responsible residents or owners to bear the cost of government efforts. We pray that we may learn from this tragedy and take necessary measures to prevent such incidents from happening again.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

We are **thankful** for:

- the long history of Christianity in these lands
- Christians and Muslims who have witnessed to their faith during long years of repression and persecution
- positive developments these countries have undergone since the end of the Soviet era
- those who pursue peace and reconciliation in the face of old suspicions and animosities.

We **pray** for:

- greater respect for the human rights of all the peoples living in these countries
- just changes for those living in situations of poverty and discrimination
- the healing of past wrongs and distorted memories of what has occurred
- a prophetic witness of the churches in relation to new challenges
- the Georgian Orthodox Church, that it may rediscover a rich relationship with the family of churches worldwide.

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

Dates For Your Diaries:

Sunday, 5 May, 12 noon to 2 pm: ‘Discipleship: Then And Now’

Join us in our fourth session of the series when we think more about the stories of ‘The Skeptics’, those questioning disciples.

Venue: Lower Fellowship Hall Light lunch provided

Scan the QR code to reserve your place at lunch.



Sunday, 12 May – EGM at 1pm and AGM at 2:30 after worship; more details will follow.

Friday, 24 May – KUC Centenary Fundraiser

Join us in celebrating the Centenary Anniversary of KUC with a special charitable fundraising movie screening of "All Shall be Well." Directed by Ray Yeung, this event promises an evening of cinematic delight and meaningful discourse:

Date: 24 May 2024 (Fri)

Time: 19:15/19:40

Venue: CineArt House, 1/F Kowloon City Plaza (Sung Wong Toi Station)

Stick around for a post-screening sharing session with Director Ray Yeung, featuring Cantonese-English interpretation.

With donations of HK\$200 or more, receive a complimentary ticket (while stock lasts) to this special screening. VIP seating is available for donations of \$500 or more. Your generosity supports KUC's ongoing ministries and development. Visit <https://shorturl.at/rHUW3> for more details.

Thank you for your generous support!

	TODAY 21 April	NEXT WEEK 28 April
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Maggie Mathieson	Estella Yeung
Pianist:	Joshua Pang	Eva Kwan
Lector:	Kenneth Ku	Jennifer Chan
Intercessory Prayers:	Paul Lucas	Rey Asis
Family Talk:	Tong Chong Sze	Phyllis Wong
Greeter:	Edna Lai Susan Babasa	Edwina Antonio
Offering Rota:	Anjenette Bolanos Ronald Chui	Daddy Mercy Matilda
Counting Rota	Lucy Lim Robert Lam	Joram Calimutan Judy Chan
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina Tong Chong Sze Estella Yeung	Mary Adesina Jailyn Tomitis Tong Chong Sze
I.T. Team:	Amber Tong Bervinder Kaur	Amber Tong Bervinder Kaur Ronald Chui

Freewill offering last week: HK\$3,455.60-
Promissory offering last week: HK\$1,750-