

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

(*: Congregation stands)



APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG “Sing Alleluia”

– Composer: L. Stassen

Sing alleluia to the Lord,
Sing alleluia to the Lord,
Sing alleluia,
Sing alleluia,
Sing alleluia to the Lord!
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*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

The spirit calls us into community
where the blind see,
the captive is liberated,
the poor are given banquets
and the least are raised up.
Into this community,
this kingdom community
we gather and dare worship.

*** HYMN** “The Love of God”

– Music/Words: Frederick M. Lehman

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell

It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell
The guilty pair bowed down with care
God gave His Son to win
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin

O love of God how rich and pure
How measureless and strong
It shall forevermore endure
The saints and angels song

When years of time shall pass away
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall
When men who here refuse to pray
On rocks and hills and mountains call

God's love so sure shall still endure
All measureless and strong
Redeeming grace to Adam's race
The saints and angels song

O love of God how rich and pure
How measureless and strong
It shall forevermore endure
The saints and angels song

Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made
Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade

To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky
O love of God how rich and pure
How measureless and strong
It shall forevermore endure
The saints and angels song --||--

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Holy Mother God,
We are thankful for the beautiful creation you have
made, and shared with us with your great generosity.
**All: Forgive us for our greed and exploitation of
your creation, causing the ecological crisis we now
face.**

Holy Lord Jesus,
We are thankful for Your amazing love and
forgiveness to us.
**Forgive us for not following your will and not
walking in your Way.**

Holy, ever moving, Spirit
We are thankful for your presence and company in our
everyday life.
**Forgive us for not listening and ignoring You; for
not trusting in You.**
With a humble heart, we pray!

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

Seek ye first the kin-dom of God

And Gods righteousness

And all these things

Shall be added unto you

Allelu alleluia

Allelu alleluia

We shall not live by bread alone

But by ev'ry word

That proceeds from the mouth of God

Allelu alleluia

Allelu alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you

Seek and ye shall find

Knock and the door

Shall be opened unto you

Allelu alleluia

Allelu alleluia --||--

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

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

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

4 They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

5 Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; 6 but you shall be called priests of the LORD, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory.

7 Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs. 8 For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

3 When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; 4 and he said to them,

‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

5 When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. 6 And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’

7 They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ 8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’

9 When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. 11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 12 saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’

13 But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? 14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.

15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ 16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

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

In the darkness of the still night
In the dawning of the daylight
In the mystery of creation
Creator God, You are there
In the breath of every being
In the birthing and the growing
In the earth and all its fullness
Creator God, You are there

In the homeless and the hungry
In the broken and the lonely
In the grieving of Your people
Creator God, You are there
In the tears and in the heartache
In the love through which we serve You
In the anguish of the dying
Creator God, You are there

In our hearts and in our thinking
In the longing and the dreaming
In the yearning of our heartbeat
Creator God, You are there
In the love for one another
In the sharing of our being
In receiving and forgiving
Creator God, You are there

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FAMILY TALK

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

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. --||--

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** “Go Tell Everyone” – Composer: A. Dale

God's Spirit is in my heart,
He has called me and set me apart.
This is what I have to do,
what I have to do.

He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,
Tell blind people that they can see,
And set the downtrodden free
And go tell everyone the news that Kin-dom of God
has come,
And go tell everyone the news that God's Kin-dom
has come.

Just as the Father sent me,
So I'm sending you out to be
My witnesses throughout the world,
The whole of the world.

He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,
Tell blind people that they can see,
And set the downtrodden free

And go tell everyone the news that Kin-dom of God
has come,
And go tell everyone the news that God's Kin-dom
has come.

Don't worry what you have to say,
Don't worry because on that day
God's Spirit will speak in your heart,
Will speak in your heart.

He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,

Tell blind people that they can see,
And set the downtrodden free

And go tell everyone the news that Kin-dom of God
has come,
And go tell everyone the news that God's Kin-dom
has come.

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* **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.

	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-