

Kowloon Union Church  
"Where all are one"  
4 Jordan Road, Kowloon  
Tel. 2367-2585 • kuc@kuc.hk • www.kuc.hk  
Secretary: Heddy Ha  
Minister: Maggie Mathieson  
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



Kowloon Union Church  
WHERE ALL ARE ONE

## **Second Sunday after Epiphany 17 January 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**

(\*: Congregation Stands)

### **APPROACH**

**SONG OF PREPARATION** "Be Still and Know" – Composer: Unknown

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

\* **HYMN** "To God Be the Glory"

– Music : William Doane Words: Fanny Crosby

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL RESPOND** "Kyrie Eleison" (Lord Have Mercy)

– Music: Russian Orthodox Chant

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.**

\* **HYMN** "Lord, You Have my Heart" – Music and Words: Martin Smith

**SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

Psalm 139: 1 – 6 & 13 – 18 (O.T.)

1 Samuel 3: 1 – 10 (O.T.)

John 1: 43 – 51 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your word live in us.

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

\* **HYMN** "Here I am Lord" – Music and Words: Daniel L Schutte

**SERMON** 'Love Comes from the Most Unexpected Places'

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

### **THE OFFERTORY**

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL RESPOND** “O, Lord Hear Our Prayer”

– Music: Taizé Community

**OFFERTORY**

\* **SIGN OF PEACE**

\* **HYMN** “Jesus Christ is Waiting”

– Music: Trad, Noel Nouvelet Words: John L Bell

\* **COMMISSION and BLESSING** – Thuma Mina

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**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**For the World and Hong Kong**

- A 6.2-magnitude earthquake hit Indonesia’s Sulawesi island, killing at least thirty four people, injuring hundreds and damaging many homes. We pray for the mourning families and those who now have to rebuild their lives. Comfort and especially bless those who are most defenseless against natural disasters, and guide the leaders in the government's disaster mitigation agency in shielding more from harm.
- As Joe Biden is set to assume the US presidency on the 20 January inauguration, we look to God to bring peace and healing to a bitterly divided country that is still reeling from the Capitol riots. May Your love, joy and grace outshine the hatred, the fears and the distrust that have been sown by four years of Donald Trump's term. May the incoming government lead the people through a devastating phase of the pandemic and toward recovery.
- Uganda's hotly contested election may finally have its results after a violent campaign where dozens of people have been killed. We recognize that the atmosphere is tense with the internet blocked and security stepped up. We lift up the people who are longing for change and pray for those in power to have an open heart.
- The deaths and suicides of employees at Pinduoduo, the giant agriculture-focused tech platform, have exposed serious flaws in mainland China's labor protection system. It is an exploitative one in which some workers, often young people, have to work unreasonably long hours up to 300 hours a month. We remember the people behind these statistics and pray that as the economy booms, the regulations will also mature so that it benefits all, and not just those at the top.
- The crackdown and silencing of dissidents — or rather anyone who dares to question the authorities — in Hong Kong continues with the arrests of a lawyer and other activists accused of helping 12 Hong Kongers leave the city. Meanwhile, journalist Bao Choy has been suspended from her role at RTHK during a trial related to car license plate searches as part of an investigation into the Yuen Long attack on 21 July 2019. In search of justice, we turn to God to be the light in the darkness.
- We remember the poor, the homeless and the elderly who live alone in this time of cold weather. May the government and the community at large be able to offer them adequate support to keep them warm and in good shape.

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

- We lift up in prayer today the churches and people of all faiths in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.
- We are thankful for the ancient cultures and religions that have been sustained in this area for millennia; those who continue to pursue peace in the midst of ethnic strife and terrorism; the faithfulness of Muslims in expressing their faith and working with others; Christians who practice their faith even when they are a small, often discriminated minority.
- We pray for women and others in these countries who are deprived of basic freedoms and human dignity; those who misuse or exploit religious identity for extremist political ends; the wise use of the benefits of oil and other natural resources for the sake of all; the emergence of stable democratic societies based on the rule of law, social justice, and respect for religious and other freedoms.

### **For the Congregation**

- Pray for our ministers and church leaders in their service to God through KUC. May the Holy Spirit unite them as one in Christ to serve with wisdom. In the new year, we pray for spiritual growth for all members and the whole congregation. May the community of KUC continue to witness for Christ to bring light, hope, and love to the world of darkness. We pray also for a stronger community in Christ. We pray that more members and friends are willing to participate in the various ministries of the church and that together we serve God with joy.
- We pray for Victoria's recover. Uphold Jenny in our hearts for her rehabilitation. May God heal and increase her strength every day. Let's remember Bruce and his mother. Pray for the well-being of our children, senior friends like Mrs. Samuel, Peter Chan and Judy Yui, as well as many refugee families especially in this time of cold.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Welcome**

Welcome to all who join the Sunday worship through Facebook livestreaming today, the third Sunday in 2021. We wish you a blessed new year filled with God's love and peace. Please stay safe and healthy. Be in touch with our ministers and church leaders if you need prayers and any support from us. We pray that we will meet again soon by God's grace.

### **KUC Movie Sunday**

The Mission, Outreach and Ecumenism Committee (MOE) is inviting you to join the online movie screening. We will screen 'The Two Popes' next Sunday, 24 January at 3:00 pm on line (Zoom ID and Password will be shared on FB). The 2019 biographical drama film is predominantly set in the Vatican City in the aftermath of the "Vatican leaks scandal". The film follows the interesting conversation between Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio,

archbishop of Buenos Aires, who is adamant on resigning from his position. While convincing him to take back his resignation, Pope Benedict XVI ended up confiding in Cardinal Bergoglio, that he wishes to abdicate the papacy. And the rest is history. This is a masterful drama directed by Fernando Merilles focuses on an intense and world-impacting conversation between two Popes around God, theology and the Church. It is believed that the film is "inspired by true events." Critics say, it is *“An enlightening drama about humanity and differing visions for the church of Pope Benedict and Pope Francis”*. We will have time for discussion and sharing of reflection after watching the movie.

**KUC Mission Support for 2021**

The MOE is seeking suggestions from the congregation regarding organizations that the church should support this year with its mission funds. Please pass any suggestions that you have to members of the MOE Committee or the church pastors. The deadline for receiving proposals is 28 Feb.

**Donation or Offering to the Church**

If you wish to make a donation or offering to the church and support our ministries, you may send us a cheque payable to “Kowloon Union Church” and mail it to 4 Jordan Road, KLN, or you can make a direct deposit to our church account: HSBC Account 018-1-080268. Please mail or e-mail (kuc@kuc.hk) the bank receipt to us for our records. For more options, please visit the church website at <https://kuc.hk/giving>.

**Become a Member of Kowloon Union Church**

New members can be received by transfer, bond of union, restatement of faith, or baptism. Interested in talking about this further? Have a word with our ministers Phyllis Wong or Maggie Mathieson.

**Preparation for Baptism**

For any friend who would like to be prepared for baptism in the church, please be in touch with Pastor Phyllis or Pastor Maggie.

<b>TODAY</b>	
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro
Pianist:	Lucy Lim
Lector:	Rey Asis
Intercessory Prayers:	Chan Beng Seng
I.T. Team:	Carl Catedral; Bervinder Kaur