

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



Kowloon Union Church  
WHERE ALL ARE ONE

## **Third Sunday after Epiphany 24 January 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**

(\*: Congregation Stands)

### **APPROACH**

**SONG OF PREPARATION** "Bless The Lord My Soul"

– Music: Taizé Community

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

\* **HYMN** "Be Still" – Music & Words: David J. Evans

**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** "Oh, Sing To The Lord" – Music & Words: Gerthard M. Cartford

**SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (O.T.)

1 Cor. 7:29-31 (N.T.)

Mark 1: 14-20. (N.T.)

Lord, may Your word live in us.

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

\* **HYMN** "Will You Come and Follow Me"

– Music and Words: Iona Community

**SERMON** "Live Faithfully to a New World"

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

### **THE OFFERTORY**

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**MISSION MOMENT -- BETHUNE HOUSE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL RESPOND** "O, Lord Hear Our Prayer" – Music: Taizé Community

**OFFERTORY**

\* **SIGN OF PEACE**

\* **HYMN** “One More Step Along The World I Go” – Music & Words: Sydney Carter

\* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

\*\*\* \*\*

## **CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

### **For the World and Hong Kong**

- People infected with COVID-19 in the world is now approaching 100 million cases with more than two million deaths. In Hong Kong, the city has recorded nearly 10,000 cases and almost 170 deaths with new cases once again soaring above 100 per day this past week, including a growing cluster among our neighbors in the Jordan and Yau Ma Tei areas that largely affects ethnic minorities. We pray for comfort for those who have lost family members and friends, healing and recovery for those suffering from this disease, and strength, stamina, and wisdom for the frontline doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers treating this extremely infectious disease.
- The United States inaugurated Joe Biden as its new President and Kamala Harris as its first woman, Asian American, and African American Vice-President on 20 January - two weeks after a mob attacked the Capitol where the inauguration took place in an attempt to stop the certification of the election results. May the divisions in society be healed through dialogue and reconciliation, and may the new leaders of the nation govern with wisdom and compassion.
- The persecution of Uyghurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic minorities by the Chinese government in Xinjiang Province through the use of internment camps and forced sterilization in the last few years has been labelled in the past week by the U.S. government as crimes against humanity and the more serious charge of genocide. According to the Genocide Convention, this is the “intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group.” We ask that Uyghurs and others will no longer be repressed because of their ethnicity and religion, that the common humanity of all people will be recognized and respected by the Chinese government and other governments where similar acts of violence against minorities occur, such as the Rohingya in Burma.
- The government of President Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines terminated on 15 January its 1989 agreement with the University of the Philippines that prohibited state forces from entering the university's campuses without permission. The government's rationale for this action was “protecting our youth against CPP/NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army) recruitment activities” without acknowledging the role that government corruption, human rights abuses, and a lack of poverty alleviation measures play in motivating young people to join this movement. We pray for reconsideration of this policy so that youth in the Philippines feel secure in exercising their rights of free expression, association, and assembly.

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

- We lift up in prayer today the churches and people of all faiths in Cyprus, Greece, Turkey.
- We are thankful for the 2,000-year presence and witness of the church in Asia Minor (now Turkey, Cyprus, and Greece) – the region in which St Paul and other apostles first planted the seeds of the Christian faith – and for how Greek culture influenced the early church; the Church Fathers who came from this area, along with many men and women who were Christian martyrs, and where seven ecumenical councils were convened; the pioneering work of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in quest of Christian unity and for protection of the environment; those who have reached out to assist people who have fled to, and through, these lands.
- We pray for the healing of memories and wounds inflicted by early 20th century genocides of Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian communities, and for current tensions in these lands; enhanced respect for all minority groups and their claims; those who work for justice and reconciliation; the people who struggle because of economic and political crises in these countries; more stable democratic governments that further the good of all.

### **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 for a stronger and unified community in KUC. 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 continue to pray for the recovery of Victoria and Jenny. Pray to God for Jenny's rehabilitation and discharge plan. Pray for the well-being of our children, senior friends, as well as many refugee families. We uphold in our hearts friends who are facing health challenges. May God heal and give them strength and hope.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Welcome**

Welcome to all who join the Sunday worship through Facebook livestreaming today. 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.

### **Note of Thanks**

We are very grateful to have the Revd Ralph Lee to share God's message with us today. Revd Lee is a retired minister and former President of the Hong Kong

Methodist Church. He served as Honorary General Secretary of Hong Kong Christian Council from 2005-2008.

### **KUC Movie Sunday Today**

Due to the social distancing guidelines in Hong Kong for the COVID-19 pandemic, KUC Movie Sunday invites you to join the upcoming movie screening online. We will screen "The Two Popes", a 2019 biographical drama film set in the Vatican City in the aftermath of the "Vatican leaks scandal". We will have time for discussion and sharing of reflections afterwards.

Date & Time: 24 January 2021 (3 PM HKT) For KUC members

Zoom registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91182122000>

FB event link: <https://fb.me/e/dlC6HyRMB>

### **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 mission partners and ministries, you may visit the church website at <https://kuc.hk/giving>.

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

The Prayer for Christian Unity is normally observed from the 18-25 January. The theme this year is, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", based on John 15:1-17. Please go to the link for materials:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/WPCU-2021-English-pamphlet-Final.pdf.pagespeed.ce.SnR5lgw9dp.pdf>.

KUC has postponed the celebration as suggested by HK Christian Council due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

<b>TODAY</b>	
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Ralph Lee
Pianist:	Eric Sin
Lector:	Harry Chan
Intercessory Prayers:	Lydia Cathedral
I.T. Team:	Lo Yuk Fai and Bervinder Kaur