

Kowloon Union Church  
"Where all are one"  
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CCLI Licence 5075510  
Secretary: Candy Lam  
Minister: Maggie Mathieson  
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



**Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany**  
**12 February 2023**  
**Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

(\* : Congregation stands)

### **APPROACH**

**PREPARATION SONG** "Be Still and Know" – Composer: Marty Parks

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

\* **HYMN** "Amazing Grace – My Chains Are Gone"

– Music: Anon/Tomlin; Lyrics John Newton/Chris Tomlin

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL RESPOND** "Kyrie Eleison" (Lord, have mercy) – Trad. Orthodox Chant

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

### **THE WORD OF GOD**

Lord, open our lips.

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

\* **HYMN** "Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord"

– Composer: Claude Frayssé, tr. Kenneth J. Morse

**SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 (O.T.)

Psalms 119: 1-10 (O.T.)

Matthew 5: 21-26 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

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

\* **HYMN** "Knowing You, Jesus"

– Composer: Graham Kendrick

**FAMILY TALK**

**SERMON** "Choices"

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

### **THE OFFERTORY**

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL RESPOND** “Ubi Caritas”

– Music: Taizé Community

**OFFERTORY**

**THE PEACE**

\* **HYMN** “Here I Am, Lord”

– Composer: Dan Schutte

\* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

### **CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

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

**Please remember as you pray. . .**

- We pray for the people of Turkey and Syria who have been devastated by the recent Earthquakes and aftershocks in the surrounding areas. Multiple nations have responded to the desperate need for search and rescue teams, including a team from Hong Kong. May God bless and sustain all attempts to rescue those who are lost, all treatment for those who are injured and comfort the grieving who have lost family members.
- The Chilean government has put three central regions of the country on high alert for forest fires amid a heatwave. Thousands of firefighters continue to battle blazes in the south, consuming almost 300,000 hectares of land. We pray for the safety of those involved in trying to contain this blaze and those who have given their lives in this work.
- Three months after the declaration of peace in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia, the United Nations has reported helping 50,000 people return to their homeland and families. They also say an increased level of access to humanitarian aid though the needs in the area are far more significant. We thank God for the beginnings of the success of the peace declaration and pray that, in time, all will continue to be well.
- Hundreds of women are protesting in the north-eastern Indian state of Assam after their male relatives were arrested as part of a crackdown on child marriage. The protestors claim that these arrests are disproportionately targeted at Muslims. Indian law maintains the age of marriage to be 18; unfortunately, data shows that more than two out of ten girls are married before 18. We pray for the young girls in these situations for their protection and for the law enforced and kept by all.
- In a true win for conservation and the environment, Australia has blocked the creation of a coal mine under environmental laws for the first time in history. The government rejected the proposed mine due to its proximity to the Great Barrier Reef. May this action be the first of many worldwide as we try to undo some of the damage we have inflicted on creation.
- The Court of Final Appeal on Monday ruled that the authorities breached the rights of two transgender men by refusing to record their new gender on their identity cards because they had not undergone complete sex reassignment

surgery. With this ruling, we pray those who are transgender will find this empowering and affirming.

- We thank God that the government's funding bid for building the light public flats has cleared its first hearing in the legislature this past week. The light housing units will make a big difference in the lives of those who are eligible. We pray for the further development of the building of the units with the best interest of the people at heart.
- We continue our prayers of thanks as we see the number of new Covid cases drop. May the Lord continually strengthen those sick and those who care for them.

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

- We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Austria, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.

We give **thanks** for:

- the quality of life that many in these countries enjoy and their commitment to provide for those in the world who are in need
- the organizations located here that seek to increase ecumenical and interfaith understanding and work together for the common good of all people and creation
- political and economic transparency in these countries
- those who reach out to migrants and counter attitudes and practices that oppose them.

We **pray** for:

- environmental practices that preserve the natural environment, especially the Alps' melting glaciers
- the work for justice, reconciliation and peace pursued by the people and organizations here, seeking to shape globalization so that it benefits all
- religious freedom, also for those from non-Christian traditions
- overcoming the fear of, and welcoming the embrace of, those who are outsiders to the countries' historic, ethnic traditions.

### **For the Congregation**

- We pray for the mothers of Alex Melwani, Helen Lee, Florence Tse and Chris Wong, for Mrs Samuel, Anjenette, Habib, Hend, Jeanette Lee, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Chui, Ramon Bultron, Lyn, Lucy Lim, Mercy, Stephanie, Joy Babasa, Poulis Zaki, Saafa, Selvia and Jackie Tse. We remember those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.
- We lift in prayer this morning our sister Julie Poon whose husband Kim Kwan passed away on Wednesday. May he rest in God's eternal peace. We pray the peace of the Lord surround Julie and her extended family as they prepare to bid their earthly farewells.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Today**

Welcome to all who join our worship in church and through Facebook live streaming.

## This Week's Programs in Church

- Tuesday - Peace Making Fellowship in Number 2 Jordan Road at 10:00 am
- Wednesday - Harambe at 6 pm
- Thursday - Liturgy Preparation workshop at 7:30 pm here in Church
- Friday - Bible Study – No Bible Study this week  
Junior Choir at 5:00 pm

### Liturgy Preparation Workshop –

We have started this round of Liturgy Workshops. If perhaps these dates have not been suitable for you but you would like to be considered for the next time, please register here <https://forms.gle/k4YT2ELX7tzFWbaS9>.



### Christian Education Workshop – 11 February

The 2nd workshop on Sexuality and Spirituality will be held on Sat, 11 Feb, at 7 pm in the Upper Fellowship Hall. This session will be focused on sexuality in the Bible, exploring the expression of physical love in the Old and New Testaments and its connection to Jewish and Christian spirituality and ethics. All are invited to attend.



### Prayer Writers Workshop – 19 February

Would you like to learn and share some tips in writing and structuring prayers to be used in worship? If so, why not join us in our Prayer Writers Workshop led by Pastor Maggie, Sunday, 19 February, from 1:30– 3:00 pm, here in KUC.

Please register here: <https://forms.gle/3zZvHjkXkXNXC3sB8>



### MOE Movie Sunday – 26 February

Date for your diary: Movie Sunday, 26 February, after the morning worship. A video documentary of theologian Henri Nouwen will be screened. Time: 1:30 – 3:00 pm

	<b>TODAY</b> <b>12 February</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK</b> <b>19 February</b>
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Rey Asis
Preacher:	Maggie Mathieson	Katie Ho
Pianist:	Jessica Tso	Joshua Pang
Lector:	Ben Baxter	John Mok Lamme
Intercessory Prayers:	Kenneth Ku	Peter Youngblood
Family Talk:	Tong Chong Sze	Maggie Mathieson
Greeter:	Edwina Antonio Blessing Lukuba	Kevin Ng Journaliz Badon
Offering Rota:	Chris Law Kevin Ng	Daddy Samjhana Thapa
Counting Rota	Edwina Antonio Hope Antone	Doris Lee
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis, Mary Adesina	Jaylin Tomitis, Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Lo Yuk Fai, Venus Cheng	Jen Pang, Tong Chong Sze

Freewill offering last week : HK\$5,428.50-

Promissory offering last week: HK\$8,500-

Organic Farm: HK\$243.2-

