

Kowloon Union Church  
“Where all are one”  
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Secretary: Heddy Ha  
Minister: Maggie Mathieson  
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



Kowloon Union Church  
WHERE ALL ARE ONE

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**21 March 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**  
(\*: Congregation Stands)

**APPROACH**

**SONG OF PREPARATION** “Oculi Nostri” (Our Eyes are Turned)  
– Composer: Taize Community

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

\* **HYMN** “Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing”  
– Music: Nettleton; Words: Robert Robinson

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL RESPOND** “Change My Heart” – Composer: Eddie Spinosa

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

Lord, open our lips.

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

\* **HYMN** “All Heaven Declares” – Composer: Noel & Tricia Richards

**SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (O.T.)

Hebrews 5:5-10 (N.T.)

John 12:20-33 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your word live in us.

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

\* **HYMN** “All I Once Held Dear” – Composer: Graham Kendrick

**SERMON** “Everyone's Priest”

\* **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: Br. Roger ,Taize

## OFFERTORY

\* SIGN OF PEACE

\* HYMN “Will You Come And Follow Me”

– Composer: John L. Bell

\* COMMISSION and BLESSING

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## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

- A new UN report warns that the disruption of healthcare services caused by Covid-19 may have led to an estimated 239,000 maternal and child deaths in South Asia. In addition to those directly affected by the coronavirus, the pandemic restrictions have been harmful as they cut off programs like nutrition benefits to immunization. We lift the women and children, who are worst hit, in our prayers. May God guide the governments and charities in acknowledging these hidden issues and devising new policies with compassion.
- We are heartbroken by the mass shooting in Atlanta, Georgia area seemingly targeting Asian Americans and the loss of eight lives, many of them women. Amid a surge of hate crimes in the United States, the hurt, outrage, anguish and fear felt by many is palpable. We pray for God's protection for the vulnerable, comfort for the grieving and transformative power for those harboring ill will towards people of different races.
- Japan, the only Group of Seven nation not to fully recognize same-sex partnerships, has made its first judicial ruling on marriage equality after a court decided that the government's failure to recognize same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. We rejoice in the symbolic victory for the Japanese LGBTQ community, a step toward equality. May we never waver from God's love and grace for all, regardless of gender and sexuality.
- The return of hazardous smog to Beijing is a visual reminder that as the world gradually goes back to normal, carbon emissions will once again rise. We pray for discernment to realize what was wrong with "business as usual." May God grant us the courage and wisdom to push for changes that would reverse the course and keep us from further plunging into a climate crisis.
- As Hong Kong's unemployment rate climbs to the highest level in almost two decades, we pray for those in our city struggling financially that God will provide and sustain them.

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

- We lift up in prayer today the churches and people of all faiths in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- **We are thankful for** preservation of the distinct cultural practices, literature, music and natural resources in these countries; the faithful witness of Christians during times of persecution and for those who survived times of occupation; how these countries peacefully became independent after 1918 and 1991; new-found freedoms that the people here have experienced, that they might be used for the good of all.

- **We pray for** peaceful relations with Russia and among all the ethnic groups in these lands; the healing of old wounds remaining from 20th century struggles; just economic development that benefits all citizens in these countries, and for those who live and work abroad; governmental leaders and all people, that they might together strive for justice, peace and the well-being of all.

### **For the Congregation**

- Pray for Ate Jenny for her ongoing rehabilitation and Jeanette for her treatment. Remember Bruce and his mom in the United States. Uphold in our heart Tory's mom who is receiving palliative care. We pray to God for comfort, courage and patience in countering life frailty. May they all experience God's steadfast love and great faithfulness.
- Doris Lee tendered her resignation from the Council and the MOE Committee effective on 25 March. We are grateful for her devoted service during the past year. We pray for her good health at this time of new responsibilities with a new job and for her sister Jeanette Lee and family.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Welcome**

Welcome to all who join the Sunday worship through Facebook live streaming today. Be in touch with our pastors and church leaders if you need prayers and any support from us. We pray that worship in person will be resumed soon.

### **A Note of Thanks**

We are grateful to have Peter Youngblood to share God's word with us this morning.

### **Lentern Devotional - One in the Covenant of the Cross**

As we continue in this season of Lent, we journey together from Genesis to the Cross. Together we consider the covenants formed between God and God's people. During this time let us focus ourselves on building and creating our personal covenant with our Creator God. Please don't miss the weekly readings and devotional each week we upload to the church Facebook. For 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, we hear from Mrs Shirin Samuel as she shares her reflection on Jeremiah 31:31-34. You may also listen to Judy Chan, Rey Asis, Lydia Cathedral and Nam Boo Won who shared in the previous weeks since Ash Wednesday. If you are not on Facebook and would like to view the videos or read the written version, please contact Pastor Maggie.

### **Mid Week Guided Meditation (Online Meeting)**

Held every Wednesday from 7:30pm to 8:30pm starting 24 February and going through 7 April. This is an opportunity for different members and friends of the church to get to know one another more as we participate in spiritual practices together. Specifically, Carl will be facilitating the practice of Lectio Divina, and the Scriptures we go through overlap with the devotionals being prepared as part of the church's Lenten theme of 'One in the Covenant of the Cross.'

See a short video in the link below if you are interested and would like to join. Feel free to let Carl know if you have any questions! <https://kuc.hk/lent>

### **Anti-harassment Workshop**

You are welcome to join our anti-harassment workshop organized on 18 April Sunday, 2-4 pm. We will share about what is sexual harassment, theological reflection, myths and misunderstanding on sexual harassment, understanding of victims and appropriate way to support. Our church has committed to develop a zero tolerance on harassment of all kinds. Please contact Pastor Phyllis or Ching for further information. Register please go to this link <https://kuc.hk/ash>

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Please mark the date of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 16 May, after the morning worship. Apart from the reports and plans for the next year, the AGM will be a time for KUC members to elect new members of the Council. With the resignation of Chris Wong and Doris Lee; with Norma Diaz completing a maximum of two terms (four years) in May; with Edwina Santoyo and Sunita Suna finishing their first term but are eligible for re-election, there will be five places to fill in. The AGM will also elect a new treasurer as Jennifer Chan will finish her term in May and has announced she wishes to step down from the role. May God prepare members to take up various leadership roles in the church. Please contact Pastor Maggie, Pastor Phyllis, or Council Chair Hope Antone, if you are considering, or wish to recommend someone from among our members, to serve the church through the Council or as treasurer.

### **Weekly Bible Study (Online Meeting)**

We are currently meet on Friday Morning at 10:30 am. We join in the process of the Church as we journey towards the Cross and Easter. For more details please contact Pastor Maggie.

### **Young Adults Group (YAG) (Online Meeting)**

The Young Adult Group (YAG), meets on Friday evenings at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be on 26 March. If you would like to learn more and find out about other upcoming events, please message Carl Cathedral at 6851 3694.

### **Baptism Preparation Class**

Eight sessions of baptism class will be arranged from 15 April to 3 June, Thursday at 7:30-9:15pm. Anyone who is prepared to be baptised in KUC, please be in touch with Pastor Maggie or Pastor Phyllis.

### **Donation or Offering to the Church**

If you wish to make a donation or offering to the church, you may visit the church website at <https://kuc.hk/giving>.

<b>TODAY</b>	
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Peter Youngblood
Pianist:	Lucy Lim
Lector:	Carl Cathedral
Intercessory Prayers:	Sunita Suna
I.T. Team:	Tony Chan and Louis Leung