

Kowloon Union Church
"Where all are one"
4 Jordan Road, Kowloon
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Secretary: Heddy Ha
Social Ministry Worker: Timothy Chan
Minister: Maggie Mathieson
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost 8 November 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

(* : Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

SONG OF PREPARATION "We Welcome You In This Place"
– Composer: Timothy Chan

CALL TO WORSHIP

* **HYMN** "Guide Me O My Great Redeemer"
– Words: William Williams. Tune: CWM RHONDDA

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** "Holy Wisdom, Lamp Of Learning"
– Words: Ruth Duck. Tune: HYFRYDOL

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 78:1-7 (O.T.)

Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 (O.T.)

Matthew 25:1-13 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

* **HYMN** "Who Is My Mother, Who Is My Brother"
– Words: Shirley Erena Murray. Tune: KINDRED

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

SERMON "Are You the Wise or Foolish?"

* **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

* **SIGN OF PEACE**

* **HYMN** "City of God" – Composer: Dan Schutte

* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

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*"For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:45)*

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

For the World and Hong Kong

- We pray for the United States of America, whose deep division is laid bare in the results of the Presidential and national elections. Standing with those who honour democratic principles, we pray for justice, truth and integrity for those who lead and serve the country. May there be a peaceful transition of power and the government is able to protect their people as the country battles a new surge of Covid-19 cases exceeding 100,000 a day.
- We remember the 73 Palestinians who have lost their homes in West Bank after Israel demolished their dwellings without notice. May God provide them with shelter, both physically and spiritually, as they live through long-running conflicts.
- Tension in Ethiopia is high after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed vowed to continue a military offensive in the northern state of Tigray, while the Tigrayan president warned his region is in a state of war. We pray for peace, trusting God will find a way in the toughest circumstances.
- We mourn the killing of four people in Vienna, where a suspected terrorist has injured 23 others in a gun attack. We are at a loss as to why these attacks keep happening. But we lift Austria up to you and pray that your radical love will counter radical violence.
- Amid mounting concerns about freedom of the press in Hong Kong, we remember Bao Choy, the investigative journalist who was arrested for reporting on the 21 July incident with RTHK, as well as others striving to document and uncover what's happening in our city. We pray to God to bless all seekers of truth and grant us wisdom to discern what is true and what is false.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

- We lift up in prayer today the churches and people of all faiths of Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia.

- We are thankful for the how the people have welcomed new immigrants; and how churches have witnessed and worked together ecumenically, especially amid challenges of apathy in highly secularized societies.
- We pray for churches to have the imagination, skills and energy to build bridges of understanding in increasingly multireligious and multicultural contexts; those who work tirelessly on issues of justice for the poor, the marginalized and the dispossessed, especially indigenous peoples; those seeking refuge and a new life in these countries, and those supporting and providing for them; and careful preservation of the fragile land, sea, and resources.

For the Congregation

- The AMO will start the second round of renovation in church. The areas of work include repairing the steel windows at the Bell Tower and external wall cleaning. Scaffolding will be installed soon. Pray for safety of workers and everyone who are entering in and out the church premise.
- Pray for the ministers and church leaders as they are planning for the church ministries and preparing the budget for 2021. May God guide them to serve with clear vision and wisdom in unity of Christ.
- Uphold friends who are encountering different kinds of life challenges. Continue to pray for those who are in the healing process: Wasanthi (Mercy's sister), Connie's grandmother and Oscar Marquez (Thelma's brother).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome

Welcome all who are physically present in church and all who join the Sunday Worship through Facebook live streaming today. We have resumed church service with a limit of 50% capacity according to the rule issued by the government for four weeks. When the sanctuary reaches its capacity, friends will go to the fellowship hall. We appreciate friends to keep the hall quiet when the venue is used for worship. The conference room is prepared as children's corner for parents with very small children to stay in. We advise everyone to observe the precaution measures in church to ensure public health safety.

Welcome New Members

Today we joyfully receive Harry Chan and Mayson Fung to join KUC as full members. May they continue to grow in faith, to serve together with their gifts to build the church community and God's kingdom on earth.

KUC Movie Sunday: Features Documentary Film Bonhoeffer

Why did the German Church embrace Hitler and the Nazi Party? And what was a good German, a deeply religious and pacifist man to do about it? Please come to the KUC Movie Sunday at 1:00 p.m. on 22 November @Upper Fellowship Hall, hosted by KUC's Mission, Outreach and Ecumenism (MOE) Committee to learn more about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who may give us inspiration about how to live out our faith and life in a time of challenge.

Craft Evenings

We are looking to start a 'craft group' here in KUC on Tuesday evenings. Anyone who is interested in joining the group, please speak to Pastor Maggie.

Support to Christian Action

KUC has made a donation of HK\$66,000 to Christian Action for the renovation of the Centre for Refugees after a fire broke out at the end of August. The amount of donation is a combination of fund from the church and offering we receive from individuals who were in support of this cause. Thank you for the generosity of donors.

NO Bible Study for the next two weeks

The bible study group will take a break in the coming two weeks.

Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM)

The EGM will take place on Sunday 15 November after worship. The purpose is to present and pass the budget for 2021.

Kuc Staff's News

Timothy Chan will complete his contract as Social Ministry Worker on 31 December 2020. We are grateful for his contributions to the church, especially for the peacemaking program and the asylum seeker community. We wish him the best and trust that God will continue to guide him to the ministry that he is called to do. Let us pray for God's guidance on our recruitment of the new staff.

	TODAY	NEXT WEEK 15 November
Liturgist:	Timothy Chan	Phyllis Wong
Preacher:	Phyllis Wong	Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro
Pianist:	Lucy Lim	Han Inkyu
Lector:	Doris Lee	Cynthia Leung
Intercessory Prayers:	Nam Boo Won	Rey Asis
Family Talk:	Tong Chong Sze	Chan Beng Seng
Greeter:	Norma Diaz Barnet Wanjira	Kevin Ng Thelma Marquez
Offering:	Paul Cheung	Harry Chan Mercy Maltilda
Sunday School:	Maggie Mathieson Hugo Lo Tong Chong Sze	Lydia Cathedral Hugo Lo Tong Chong Sze
I.T. Team:	Lo Yuk Fai Carl Cathedral	Carl Cathedral Monkey Liu

Last Sunday's offering: HK\$2,703-
Promissory offering last week: HK\$9,470-
Peacemaking: HK\$600-