

Kowloon Union Church
"Where all are one"
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Secretary: Candy Lam
Social Ministry Worker: Katie Ho
Minister: Maggie Mathieson
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
19 November 2023
Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.
(*: Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG "In The Lord" – Composer: Taizé

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

*** HYMN** "Now Thank We All Our God"

– Music: J Cruger; Lyrics: M Rinkart

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND "Kyrie Eleison"

– Composer: Trad. Orthodox

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

HYMN "Open My Eyes"

– Composers: C Scott

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Psalm 123 (O.T.)

1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11 (N.T.)

Matthew 25: 14 - 30 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN "Who Am I?"

– Composer: Mark Hall

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "Enter into the Joy"

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "O Lord, Hear Our Prayer"

– Taizé

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* HYMN "Christ Be Our Light"

– Composer: B Farrell

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Concerns of the Church

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

- We continue to remember the war in Gaza and Ukraine; we also remember fighting that is still ongoing in Sudan, Myanmar, and other parts of the world. Peace and stability are not a given, and we pray to God to give us the wisdom, patience and love to recognise and address the root causes of conflicts and work toward eliminating them.
- Last Thursday was the United Nations International Day for Tolerance to commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance by UNESCO on 16 November 1995, which affirms that tolerance is neither indulgence nor indifference. It is respect and appreciation of the rich variety of our world's cultures, forms of expression and ways of being human. We are thankful for the world's diversity of cultures and pray that we recognize and treasure the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of others.
- Kenyans have been given a special holiday to plant trees as part of the government's goal to plant 15 billion trees in 10 years. The government is making available about 150 million seedlings in public nurseries for free. The initiative is intended to help fight climate change as trees help tackle global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide from the air while releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. We pray that world leaders continue to sustain such efforts, which are sorely needed to reverse climate change to ensure that our future generations can have a healthy place to live when we are no longer here.
- Authorities in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand are racing to rescue around 40 workers who are trapped inside a tunnel that collapsed last Sunday. A nearby landslide caused heavy debris to fall on the tunnel, leading to its collapse. The mounds of debris cut off the oxygen supply to the trapped workers. We pray for the safety of the workers and their anxious families. We also remember the safety conditions for construction workers in Hong Kong, which had recently witnessed three fatal industrial accidents in just four days! As we strive for economic development, let us not forget to protect the safety of the workers in Hong Kong and worldwide and ensure that they are also given a fair share of the fruit of their labour.
- According to the statistics published by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention, the suicide rate for the 15 to 24 age group has risen sharply, with 12.2 deaths per 100,000 people, compared to 10.4 deaths in 2017 and 6.1 in 2014. The Samaritan Befrienders Hong Kong (SBHK) reported that 17 youths had died by suicide between July and October. Academic problems, relationships, and family issues

were prime reasons behind youth suicide, and the youngest caller for help on their hotline was just eight years old. We pray for our youths' mental and emotional well-being and hope that schools, parents, and the Education Bureau heed adolescents' needs, alleviate academic pressure, and proactively address their emotional and mental health needs.

- Hong Kong hosted the Gay Games this month, which was originally scheduled for 2022 but was postponed due to the COVID pandemic. The Games were also split with Mexico's Guadalajara, which was appointed as a contingency then and now chosen as a co-host. This arrangement splintered the global attendance and was not helped by the poor public promotion for the event. Furthermore, the event had also been attacked by pro-China conservatives in Hong Kong's Legislative Council, arguing the Games were a "promotion of the gay movement". It could "involve national security issues involving bad ideologies". Such backward views and demagoguery sadden us. We pray that our community supports the promotion of diversity and inclusion through sports, arts and cultural activities, and remembers the struggle this year for LGBT people seeking marriage and housing rights in Hong Kong.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in East Timor, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

We are **thankful** for:

- the vital witness of churches in this region; the diversity of ethnicities, cultures and religious beliefs
- those who have resisted bravely and worked for human rights, justice, peace and reconciliation, especially the National Council of Churches in the Philippines
- those who protest exploitative mining, deforestation and other environmental damage.

We **pray** for:

- governments in Indonesia, the Philippines, and East Timor, that they will eradicate corruption, establish justice and peace, and work effectively for the wellbeing of all their people
- victims of violence, torture, drug and human trafficking, and human rights violations, that those responsible might be held accountable
- all those affected by earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters, and for the rebuilding of communities afterwards
- ecumenical and interfaith cooperation to bring justice, peace and sustainability to these lands.

For the Congregation

- Pray for those facing health challenges that require body strength restoration: Paul Wong, Kevin Ng, Revd Bud, Jeanette Lee, Hend, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Joy Babasa and Pastor Maggie. We continue to remember our senior members and friends: Mrs Samuel, the mothers of Alex Melwani and Sunita Suna. May God heal the sick and give strength to those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.

Announcements

Today - A warm welcome to all who join our worship this morning. Please stay and join the tea & coffee fellowship after the service.

Thank you – Revd Judy, for her message this morning!

Interfaith Exposure Trip to Plum Village HK – May the participants have a fruitful experience.

Tapestry Workshop – today at 1:30 -3:30 pm

Workshop organised by the Care & Fellowship Committee to help you design and complete your artwork for the KUC’s Centenary Celebration! Faciliator: Pastor Maggie.

Movie Sunday organised by MOE Committee: 26 November – 1:30 – 3:30 pm

“Sister” - 90-minute film A documentary about the life and work of death penalty abolitionist Sister Helen Prejean. The film examines her life and influences and delves into the evolving role of Catholic nuns in America. A poignant piece, it follows Sister Helen (best-selling author of *Dead Man Walking*) as she counsels and fights for the stay of execution of Oklahoma death row inmate Richard Glossip.

Clean Up Day

Annual Clean up days will be arranged on 1 & 2 December (Friday & Sat), from 10 am to 4 pm. Come and join us to clean KUCspace and the church at no. 4. It is great fun and a joyful time being together to make our church shine after some deep cleaning. Let’s get ready for the new church year on 1st Sunday of Advent.

Broadcast Service

RTHK Radio 4 Sunday today at 11:05 am. You may go to the archive to listen after that. May the Studio Broadcast we prepared and shared connect people to God and bring God all glory and honour! Pastor Phyllis has also recorded today’s 8:25am message for "Thought for the Week". You may listen to it on archives on Radio 3, RTHK.

	TODAY 19 November
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Judy Chan
Pianist:	Katie Ho
Lector:	Ronald Chui
Intercessory Prayers:	Ramon Bultron
Family Talk:	Lydia Catedral
Greeter:	Lucy Lim, Edith San Juan
Offering Rota:	Anjenette Bolanos, Susan Babasa
Counting Rota	Gabi Baumgartner, Ramon Bultron
Sunday School Leaders:	Mary Adesina, Gabi Baumgartner
I.T. Team:	Venus Cheng, Bervinder Kaur

Freewill offering last week: HK\$3,852.50- Promissory offering last week: HK\$6,350-
