

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



**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**13 December 2020 at 10:30 a.m.**

(\* : Congregation Stands)

**APPROACH**

**ADVENT CANDLE LITANY – CANDLE OF JOY**

**SONG OF PREPARATION** "Light Of Hope Ignite In Us"

– Music: Timothy Chan. Lyrics: M Mathieson

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

\* **HYMN** "Joy Has Dawned" – Lyrics and Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL RESPOND** "Change My Heart O God" – Composer: Eddie Espinosa

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

Lord, open our lips.

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

\* **HYMN** "Here I Am To Worship" – Words and Music: Tim Hughes

**SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

Psalm 126 (O.T.)

1Thessalonians 5:16-24 (N.T.)

John 1:6-8; 19-28 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

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

\* **HYMN** "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

–Words: Liturgy of St James (4<sup>th</sup> Century) Tune: PICARDY

**SERMON**

\* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**THE OFFERTORY**

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL RESPOND** "I Waited I Waited On The Lord"

– Music: WGRC – The Iona Community

## **OFFERTORY**

\* **SIGN OF PEACE**

\* **HYMN** "Will You Come And See The Light"

– Words: Brian Wren. Tune: KELVINGROVE

\* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

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## **CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

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

- 10 December is International Human Rights Day when we affirm the importance of human rights and pray for those who suffer from human rights abuses. We pray for people who are imprisoned because they assert their basic human rights for freedom and democracy. May God strengthen human rights activists and keep their faith strong to bring about a better world of justice and peace. May God's love and justice inspire the world to treat all human beings equally with dignity regardless of one's political opinion, gender, sex and sexual orientation, religion, race, or social status. May education about valuing human rights be given to new generations and the power to protect human rights be granted to the authorities. May God give to His people hope for the future and courage to speak and stand up against unjust authorities. May Jesus Christ give to the world the spirit of unity so people are able to show solidarity with the righteous who are suffering from oppression and discrimination.
- In celebrating the International Human Rights Day this year, we in particular remember and pray for the people and situation in the Philippines, Hong Kong and China. We pray for the human rights activists and their families who have faced tremendous threats and suppression through the extrajudicial killing in the Philippines. We pray for the political leaders, young social activists, journalists, church workers, and everyone who have conscience to speak the truth, challenge the abuse of power and kindly provide necessary services for the needy in Hong Kong. May God protect them and give them strength in facing all kinds of challenges - unjust trial in court, freezing of bank accounts etc. We uphold in our hearts all human rights lawyers and activists and church pastors in Mainland China who have been jailed and lost their freedom. May God's justice reign and comfort the broken hearted.
- 69.5 million people have contracted the coronavirus around the world. Close to 1.6 million people have died. We pray that those departed would rest in peace and that the sick be healed. The United States has been badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of confirmed cases (15.6 million) and deaths (292K) is highest in the world. May God give strength

to the people and the government to address the issues with care and wisdom. We pray to God for protection to everyone and peace to all who are under stress and anxiety. We remember the poor who are affected most adversely in such health crisis.

- In the 4<sup>th</sup> wave of coronavirus outbreak in our city, we pray for healing and safety to those who have been affected. Remember those who need to quarantine and many others who are forced to go for another round of isolation. May God give strength to them and all who are working on the front-line with patients. May they be given enough protective gear and rest to protect themselves. May the people in the City be united together to help each other in this time of challenge. Pray for love, kindness and peace for Hong Kong, China and the world to face this global pandemic.

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

- We lift up in prayer today the churches and people of all faiths in China, Hong Kong and Macau.

### **For the Congregation**

- The Council has been undergoing an overall review of the church ministries. In light of this and restrictions on activities due to COVID, the Council decided to freeze the hiring of a new Social Ministry Worker. Pastor Maggie and Pastor Phyllis will take up the tasks that are related to the peace-making programs in this transition period. They will also continue to offer pastoral care to the refugees and asylum seekers within our community. Please pray for the transition in the midst of many uncertainties due to the Covid health crisis.
- The Church has planned to have a farewell gathering for Timothy on 27 December. Details will be announced. We are sad for his leaving and we appreciate his services to the church especially the peace-making ministry in the past five years. We pray that God will continue to guide him as he moves on in his life journey.
- We remember members who are away from Hong Kong spending time with families: Gabi, Bruce, Pearl, Judy Chan, Tong. May they all stay safe and healthy.
- Remember and pray for friends who are facing life and health challenges. Pray for Paul Wong for his leg to be strengthened, for good health of Sandy Hung, Emad and Nasr.
- Christelle and her family had left for Canada last Thursday. May God bless them in a new stage of life.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Welcome**

Welcome all who join the Sunday Worship through Facebook live streaming today. When social distancing measures are further tightened due to the increasing number of Covid cases, we pray that you and your family are all safe and well in God. Please be in touch with our ministers and church leaders if you need any support from us in this challenging time.

### **Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM)**

During the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on 15 November, the congregation requested the Council and Trustees to amend the proposed budget for 2021. Another EGM will be held on 20 December to approve the revised budget. Please mark the date.

### **Christmas Celebration**

- 24<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m.
- 25<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion at 11 am. It will be a joint service with One Body In Christ Church and UCCP.
- With the widespread of coronavirus in many different communities in our city, as well as the tightening of social distancing rules, we will suspend Christmas Services in Church but we will have them go online. Pray that even we are not meeting in person in the virtual world, we still keep our heart close to God and let Christ be at the centre of Christmas.

### **Celebrate the Church's New Year - Advent**

We are in the third week of Advent. Let us continue to prepare and wait for the coming of Christ with patience and joyful expectation. The theme for Advent this year is "Re-visiting Christ's Coming". Six short reflections prepared by our church members were posted on KUC's Facebook in the past two weeks. Another six will be coming up. May the Advent devotional materials help us to reflect on our life and faith in Christ who came to the world to save. May we be more like Christ and walk in His way of truth.

### **Advent Letter on NSL**

In the season of Advent, the Church has issued a letter drafted by the MOE Committee, to friends both from KUC and outside, to share the message of hope and peace in our worried and disturbed city of Hong Kong after the National Security Law was enacted in July. It is attached with the bulletin and uploaded in our church website.

	<b>TODAY</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK 20 December</b>
Liturgist:	Timothy Chan	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Maggie Mathieson	Matt Coulson
Pianist:	Eric Sin	Eric Sin
Lector:	Norma Diaz	Chris Wong
Intercessory Prayers:	Phyllis Wong	Rey Asis
I.T. Team:	Carl Catedral Tony Chan	Timothy Chan Bervinder Kaur