

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



Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 15 November 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

(* : Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

SONG OF PREPARATION "Bless The Lord"

CALL TO WORSHIP

* **HYMN** "Praise My Soul" – Words & Music: John Bell & Graham Maule

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** "Sing Alleluia To The Lord" – Words & Music: Linda Stassen

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Judges 4:1-9 (O.T.)

Matthew 25:14-31 (N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

ANTHEM "God On The Mountain" by KUC Singers

FAMILY TALK

SERMON "The Judge and the Honorable Slave: Where is the Connection?"

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL RESPOND "The Kingdom Of God Is Justice & Peace"

– Music: Taizé Community

OFFERTORY

* **SIGN OF PEACE**

* **HYMN** “This Is My Song” – Words & Music: Jean Sibelius & Lloyd Stone

* **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

- 25 November marks the International Day of Violence Against Women (IDEVAW). The United Nations defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” It is estimated that 1 in every 3 women and girls will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. Last Tuesday, 10 November, prominent lawyer and women’s rights activist Hanan al-Barassi was shot dead by unidentified men in Benghazi, Libya. A mother and her four-year old daughter finally escaped their assailants, who kidnapped and gang-raped them for two weeks. We pray for strength, Lord God, as we stand with our sisters, mothers, daughters and friends in upholding human rights, lives and dignity of all women and end all violence.
- We include in our prayers the Philippines that has faced a third major typhoon in three weeks. Typhoon Vamco has lashed out on various provinces and cities in Luzon islands and some nearby islands like Catanduanes. More than 260,000 people have already been evacuated as many homes and communities have been severely damaged by the strong winds and heavy rain. We seek God to comfort the weary and the homeless and guide our leaders in helping them towards recovery.
- Israel Vazquez, a journalist for the online media outfit El Salmantino, was shot minutes before he was about to go on air and report on discovered human graves in the city of Salamanca, Mexico. Mexico is ranked by the Committee for the Protection of Journalists (CPJ) as the world’s deadliest country for journalists. We pray for the repose of Israel’s soul, for solace to his bereaved family, and justice for his murder and all other extrajudicial killings.
- Opposition legislators in Hong Kong have announced their resignation after four democratic legislators were disqualified by the China government and their issue of a resolution removing anyone from office and disqualifying them from running for elections if the latter is found to be endangering

China's national security. We bring to our Lord God, our aspirations for a just and democratic city.

- Kindergartens in Hong Kong are closed for two weeks starting 14 November Saturday, after 171 outbreaks of urinary tract infection have been reported and affecting nearly 2,000 pupils and school staff. We pray for the children and academic personnel of Hong Kong, may they be kept safe from the Coronavirus, be free of any illness, and that no more untoward events befall them.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

- We lift up in prayer today the churches and people of all faiths of East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, Philippines.

For the Congregation

- Scaffolding has been installed last week for the work of steel windows at the Bell Tower. Pray for safety of workers and everyone who are entering in and out the church premise. We pray also services provided by the church will go smoothly during this renovation period.
- Pray for a smooth and successful EGM this afternoon. May God guide each member to serve with faith and joy. May God guide all leaders to serve with clear vision and wisdom in unity of Christ.
- Pray for full recovery of Sai Fung, Phyllis's sister after the heart surgery on Friday. Keep upholding friends who are encountering different kinds of life challenges. Continue to pray for those who are in the healing process Wasanthi (Mercy's sister) and Connie's grandmother.
- Our sister Linda Mendoza will be returning to the Philippines after months of holding up in Hong Kong due to the COVID 19. We wish her and Samuel a safe journey back and enjoyment in their lives after retirement.

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.

A Note of Thanks

We are grateful to Dr. Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro who shares with us God's message today. Muriel is currently working as co-ordinator of Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs Interfaith Cooperation Forum. She is one of the Asian feminist theologians, to bring insights on how Christ in Asian women seeks to engage with religions, cultures and indigenous spiritualities to bring transformation and liberation to every living being.

Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM) TODAY

The EGM will take place at 12:30 pm today in the sanctuary. The purpose is to present and pass the budget for 2021.

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.

NO Bible Study for the next week

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

KUC Staff 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.

On Leave

Timothy will be on annual leave from 13-23 November.

	TODAY	NEXT WEEK 22 November
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Muriel Orevillo-Montenegro	
Pianist:	Han Inkyu	Eric Sin
Lector:	Cynthia Leung	Sunday School
Intercessory Prayers:	Rey Asis	Sunday School
Family Talk:	Chan Beng Seng	Sunday School
Greeter:	Kevin Ng Thelma Marquez	Edwina Antonio Sunday School
Offering:	Harry Chan Mercy Maltilda	Sunday School
Sunday School:	Lydia Catedral Hugo Lo Tong Chong Sze	No Sunday School
I.T. Team:	Lo Yuk Fai Monkey Liu	Carl Catedral Monkey Liu

Last Sunday's offering: HK\$1,742-
Promissory offering last week: HK\$5,500-

