

*Ash Wednesday*



*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

**Kowloon Union Church**

**17<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

## Welcome

### Call to Worship

One: Bless the LORD!

All: **We bless God's holy name.**

Bless the LORD!

**We will remember all God's blessings.**

The LORD forgives all our sins,  
**and heals all our infirmities.**

The LORD redeems our life from the grave;  
**and crowns us with mercy and loving-kindness.**  
**So we gather in humble gratitude to offer God our prayer and praise.**

### Chant : Bless the Lord My Soul

$\text{♩} = 78$

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

## **Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

Light of true light,  
Truth of deepest truth,  
we find peace in your perfection;  
we find courage in your strength.  
We find wisdom in your truth;  
we find hope in your presence.  
You are our beginning and our end, the first and the last,  
the forgiver and redeemer of all things.  
With humble hearts, we worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
our Creator, Redeemer and Guide,  
one God, now and forever.

Loving and everlasting God, nothing is beyond the reach of your love.  
You offer forgiveness to all who turn to you in confession.  
So we pray together:

**Forgive us the words we failed to speak  
and the words we should not have spoken.  
Forgive us the good we failed to do  
and the evil we have done.  
Forgive us the love we refused to offer  
and the grudges we have held on to.  
Create in us clean hearts, O Lord.  
Forgive our past failures,  
amend who we are,  
and direct whom you would have us become;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. AMEN**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Hear and believe, anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.  
The old life is gone, the new life has begun.  
Know that God has forgiven you, and so, forgive one another.

## **Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-12**

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

## **Reflection – Carl Catedral**

## Our Covenant

### Chant : Oculi Nostri

$\text{♩} = 92$

O - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num Je - sum,  
o - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num nos - trum.

The image shows a musical score for the chant 'Oculi Nostri'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 92. The lyrics are: 'O - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num Je - sum,' and 'o - cu - li nos - tri ad Do - mi - num nos - trum.'

Our eyes are turned to the Lord Jesus Christ  
Our eyes are turned to the Lord God our Saviour

## Imposition of Ash

### Chant : Jesus, Remember Me

Je - sus, re - member me when you come in - to your king - dom.  
Je - sus, re - member me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows a musical score for the chant 'Jesus, Remember Me'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (Bb, Eb) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, re - member me when you come in - to your king - dom.'

## Prayers of Intercession

Holy and merciful God, we confess that the world is not as you created it to be. Hear our prayers for the world and for one another: Our love is imperfect and often fails. Help us to love you with heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

One: Lord, in your mercy,  
**Many: Hear our prayers.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve. Strengthen us to be of service to those in need. Let all people hear your call to join in building your kingdom of grace among us.

One: Lord, in your mercy,  
**Many: Hear our prayers.**

In our lives, anger, pride, hypocrisy and impatience hinder the life-giving relationships we long for. Restore our broken souls and mend this suffering world.

One: Lord, in your mercy,  
**Many: Hear our prayers.**

All around us, self-indulgence, envy and greed lead to the exploitation of others. Open our eyes to the impact of our desires on the earth and all its peoples.

One: Lord, in your mercy,  
**Many: Hear our prayers.**

All around us, fear, prejudice and contempt for others degrade human life. Stir our hearts with your Spirit so we can see that all humanity is created in your image.

One: Lord, in your mercy,  
**Many: Hear our prayers.**

All around us, waste and pollution destroy your creation. Awaken us to the serious consequences of our actions. Move in us by your Spirit to make us better stewards of the earth which is precious to you.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus, our redeemer and friend who taught us to pray...

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be you name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours now and for ever. Amen.

### **Chant : Wait for the Lord**

The image shows two systems of musical notation for a chant. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

System 1:  
Vocal line: Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Bass line: Accompanying chords and bass notes.

System 2:  
Vocal line: Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!  
Bass line: Accompanying chords and bass notes.

## Closing

Marked this night with the ashes of penitence,

**We will go out to share God's forgiveness  
with those we have hurt, with those who are forgotten.**

Fuelled this night by the Spirit of truth and grace,

**We will go out to bring healing to the broken,  
to offer grace to those trampled by the powerful.**

Called this night to journey through suffering to new life,

**We will go out to stand with those experiencing injustice,  
to share the Spirit's peace and reconciliation with the world. Amen**

## We leave the Worship in Silence

In Worship tonight:

Liturgist : Maggie Mathieson

Preacher : Carl Cathedral

Lector : Rey Asis

Voices : Lydia Cathedral, Chris Wong, Peter Youngblood

IT Team: Lo Yuk Fai, Kaur Bervinder

Our Liturgy this evening was compiled from several sources:

Presbyterian Church of Canada; Spill the Beans; Taize Community