

Kowloon Union Church
"Where all are one"
4 Jordan Road, Kowloon
Tel. 2367-2585 • kuc@kuc.hk • www.kuc.hk
Secretary: Heddy Ha
Minister: Maggie Mathieson
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



Easter Sunday

4 April 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion Service

(*: Congregation Stands)

APPROACH

DANCE OF PREPARATION "FORever"

– Jaylin Tomitis

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

* **HYMN** "Because You Live O Christ"

– Music: J. Oudaen Lyrics: Shirley Erena Murray

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL RESPOND "Alleluia, Alleluia Give Thanks to the Risen Lord"

– Composer: Donald E Fishel

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

* **HYMN** "The Lord of the Dance" – Music: Trad, Lyrics: Sydney Carter

SCRIPTURE READING

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

A light to our path.

Isaiah 25: 1-10

Acts 10: 34-43

John 20: 1-18

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

SERMON "Easter Message"

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALL RESPOND “Alleluia, Alleluia Give Thanks to the Risen Lord”

– Composer: Donald E Fishel

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

* **HYMN** “You Are Holy, You Are Whole”

– Composer: Per Harling

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

* **HYMN** “Because He Lives”

– Composer : B & G Gaither

* **COMMISSION**

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CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

For the World and Hong Kong

- As of 2 April, more than 129 million people had contracted the coronavirus COVID-19 globally with over 2.83 million dead and over 73.4 million recovered cases. We pray that the dead rest in peace and their families are comforted at a time of painful loss. We remember those who have lost their jobs and suffered from isolation during this pandemic crisis. We are thankful though for the medical professionals and scientists who have been tirelessly offering their knowledge and skills to help the people around the globe.
- As more and more COVID-19 vaccines are being developed and made available to protect people, we pray that the rich and developed nations can share their vaccines or their technology with poorer nations so that the whole world can benefit and break through the “prison” that the virus had imposed on all of us. We applaud the decision of AstraZeneca to generously transfer its know-how to a mass vaccine manufacturer in India to help distribute the vaccine to the world in a fair manner. We pray that more pharmaceutical companies follow suit in such voluntary licensing: that the strong should care, and the rich should share.
- We are deeply concerned and our hearts broken over news of escalating violence in Myanmar since its military seized power in a coup on 1 February 2021. We remember the many protesters (most of them young people) who have been killed, injured and arrested. We have also grave concerns on the human rights abuse in the Philippines. We pray for the people of Myanmar and the

Philippines, in particular for comfort and condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones, and pray that the world can rally support to help stop the violence and restore peace in the countries. May the righteous be protected, be set free on earth and be promised with hope and eternal life.

- In Hong Kong, we are alarmed at the conviction of seven of Hong Kong's most prominent pro-democracy campaigners for unlawful assembly in Aug 2019, some two years ago, and may face up to 5 years of prison for attending demonstration that the authorities had approved but which grew into the unauthorized march. We pray that the authorities uphold the rule of law that protects freedom of assembly as stipulated under Hong Kong's constitution.
- It had been revealed that at the National People's Congress, the Standing Committee has approved constitutional changes to make drastic reforms for the electoral system in Hong Kong. Although details are yet to be confirmed, there is fear that the dream for universal suffrage for the chief executive election, as promised by the Basic Law, may be set back even further. We pray that the authorities exercise fair and just process, and whatever form the new election system takes, it should embrace universal and equal suffrage and guarantee the free expression of the will of the voters.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

- We lift up in prayer today the churches and people of all faiths in The Balkans - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia.
- **We are thankful for** the rich legacies that this area has long embodied; those who kept both the people and their faith alive during years of repression; those pursuing peace and reconciliation between the different ethnic and religious groups.
- **We pray for** a continual healing of historic memories and pains that have been mutually inflicted; those who continue to experience marginalization and injustice, especially the Roma; religion to be a means of healing rather than of further separation and exploitation.

For the Congregation

- The Harambe Choir has started to meet and prepare for the World Refugee Day organized by the Refugee Ministry Group on 19 June and Refugee Sunday in KUC. Pray to God for new energy and solidarity amongst the group. May their shared voices remind people of the gift and contribution of refugees to the church and wider society. Pray for a good beginning when the Peacemaking Fellowship will be resumed shortly.
- Pray for members and friends and their family members who are sick and walking in the last stage of life due to aging.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! Happy Easter! Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Welcome all who join our Easter Sunday Worship in person and through Facebook live streaming today. Thanks be to God for we are able to resume public worship service in church to celebrate Easter. We are glad to have a joint Easter Sunday worship with sisters and brothers from One Body in Christ Chinese Church and United Church of Christ in the Philippines. Thank you Rev Grace and Rev Joram to co-lead today's Service.

Congregation Day Retreat on 1 May 2021 (Sat) ; 10am - 4pm

Please reserve the date if you wish to join. More details given next week.

Mid Week Guided Meditation (Online Meeting)

This Wednesday 7 April will be the last session for collective reflection and evaluation. Further arrangement will be announced on the future guided meditation after the evaluation.

Anti-harassment Workshop

You are welcome to join our anti-harassment workshop organized on 18 April Sunday, 2-4 pm. We will share about what is sexual harassment, theological reflection, myths and misunderstanding on sexual harassment, understanding of victims and appropriate way to support. Our church has committed to develop a zero tolerance on harassment of all kinds. Please contact Pastor Phyllis or Ching for further information. Register please go to this link <https://kuc.hk/ash>.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Please mark the date of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 16 May, after the morning worship. Apart from the reports and plans for the next year, the AGM will be a time for KUC members to elect new members of the Council. With the resignation of Chris Wong and Doris Lee; with Norma Diaz completing a maximum of two terms (four years) in May; with Edwina Santoyo and Sunita Suna finishing their first term but are eligible for re-election, there will be five places to fill. The AGM will also elect a new treasurer as Jennifer Chan will finish her term in May and has announced she wishes to step down from the role. May God prepare members to take up various leadership roles in the church. Please contact Pastor Maggie, Pastor Phyllis, or Council Chair Hope Antone, if you are considering, or wish to recommend someone from among our members, to serve the church through the Council or as treasurer.

Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Phyllis Wong
Pianist:	Jessica Tso
Lector/Intercessory Prayers:	KUC /UCCP/OBIC
I.T. Team:	Carl Cathedral, Monkey