

Kowloon Union Church  
"Where all are one"  
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CCLI Licence 5075510  
Secretary: Candy Lam  
Minister: Maggie Mathieson  
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



**Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany**  
**29 January 2023**  
**Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

(\* : Congregation stands)

### APPROACH

**PREPARATION SONG** "Bless The Lord" – Composer: Taizé Community  
**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**  
**\* HYMN** "All Are Welcome" – Composer: M Haugen  
**CALL TO CONFESSION**  
**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**  
**ALL RESPOND** "Kyrie Eleison" (Lord, have mercy) – Trad. Orthodox Chant  
**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

### THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.  
**And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.**

**\* HYMN** "Be Still for the Presence of the Lord" – Composer: D A Evans

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Your Word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet.  
**A light to our path.**

Micah 6: 1 – 8 ( O.T.)

Matthew 5: 1 -12 ( N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.  
**And bear much fruit for Your glory.**

**INFANT DEDICATION of OLIVER JAIRUS LEE (李宇澄)**

**and**

**BAPTISM of ELISEO KO MU-YI MEDILL CATEDRAL**

**SERMON** "What Is Required of Us?"

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

### THE OFFERTORY

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL RESPOND** “O Lord Hear Our Prayer”

– Music: Taizé Community

**OFFERTORY**

\* **HYMN** “You’ve Called Us Together, O God, By Your Grace”

– Music: W Doane Lyric: C W Gillette

\* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

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

**Please remember as you pray. . .**

- In many parts of the United States, the people remain under a cloud of a Winter Storm that has gripped the land and does not want to leave. The storm is now moving through the country's northeast, leaving devastation. May God protect and provide for those caught in its pathway.
- Germany and the United States will send 44 tanks to Ukraine to support the fight against Russia. The Ukrainians have lobbied Western allies for months for such heavy-duty equipment. The Russian forces see this move as 'blatant provocation'. Let us focus on prayers for the peace of the land and not for the refurbishment of more weapons of destruction and hate.
- We give thanks to God and celebrate the ordination of the Revd Sally Azar, the first female pastor to be ordained in Palestine. May God bless her ministry and strengthen her as she faces the challenges her ordination will bring in such a patriarchal society and culture.
- We pray for those in Egypt, where buying a book has now become a luxury item; rocketing inflation in the land has pushed the cost of producing books through the roof. This includes all books, including the textbooks of those in school. We pray for all whom this affects and the long-term consequences, particularly for the students.
- Taliban ministers have told senior UN officials that they plan to draw up new guidelines to allow Afghan women to work in some humanitarian operations. This is not a reversal of last month's edict banning women from working for NGOs. Still, it is a positive move forward, the fear being that maintaining such a total ban will endanger urgent life-saving humanitarian operations in the country. The United Nations announced that Afghanistan is the biggest humanitarian assistance programme in the world this year. They aim to reach out to 28 million Afghans, more than half the population. The country is going through the coldest winter in a decade, with many on the brink of starvation and the number of fatalities rising daily. We pray for the Lord's hand to rest on the people of Afghanistan and that the cold hearts of the Taliban leaders be softened.
- An earthquake measuring 5.6 magnitude hit Sichuan province in the small hours of Thursday. We pray for the people in this area of China, which has been

badly hit over the years by earthquakes. Pray for all involved in the recovery process yet again.

- Though many are hopeful here in Hong Kong to be able to remove our masks, specialists in respiratory medicine have warned against it, advising all to continue using our masks well after the holiday period. May we all be patient and mindful of those around us doing what we can to keep the virus under control.
- We continue our prayers of thanks as we see the number of new Covid cases drop. Praying always that the Lord will strengthen those who are sick and those who are providing care for them.

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

- We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in **Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia**

### **We are thankful for:**

- How the early Christian church developed here.
- The biodiversity of plants, animals and the natural terrain.
- How Berber, Arab and European cultures have blended.
- How these countries have remained and stood against the invasion of cultural and military forces from elsewhere.

### **We pray for:**

- all the people of these countries: Muslims, the tiny remnant of Christians, those of other faiths who continue bearing witness to their faiths and for all people of good will.
- an end to political violence.
- an end to how dominating powers have fought over these lands and their resources through the years.
- for those suffering exploitation and mistreatment as they travel through these countries.

### **For the Congregation**

- We pray for the mothers of Alex Melwani, Helen Lee, Florence Tse and Chris Wong, for Mrs Samuel, Anjenette, Habib, Hend, Jeanette Lee, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Chui, Ramon Bultron, Lyn, Lucy Lim, Mercy, Stephanie, Joy Babasa, Poulis Zaki, Saafa, Selvia and Stella Chan. We remember those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.
- Special Prayers this morning for Oliver and Sey Sey and their families as we welcome them officially to Kowloon Union Church. May we hold them always in our hearts and prayers.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Today**

Welcome to all who join our worship in church and through Facebook live streaming.

### **This Week's Programs in Church**

- Today - Hotpot in the Hall following this morning's worship
- Tuesday - Peace Making Fellowship in Number 2 Jordan Road at 10:00 am
- Wednesday - Harambe at 6 pm
- Friday - Bible Study – No Bible Study this week  
Junior Choir at 4:30 pm

### **Christian Education Workshop – 11 February**

The 2nd workshop on Sexuality and Spirituality will be held on Saturday, 11 February 7 PM in the upper fellowship hall. This session will be focused on sexuality in the Bible, exploring the expression of physical love in the Old and New Testaments and its connection to Jewish and Christian spirituality and ethics. All are invited to attend.



### **MOE Movie Sunday – 26 February**

Date for your diary: Movie Sunday, 26 February, after the morning worship. A video documentary of theologian Henri Nouwen will be screened. More details will be posted at a later date.

	<b>TODAY 29 January</b>	<b>NEXT WEEK 5 February</b>
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Maggie Mathieson	Phyllis Wong
Pianist:	Eva Kwan	Jessica Tso
Lector:	Blessing Witness Lukuba	Journaliz Badon
Intercessory Prayers:	Ramon Bultron	Emmanuel Adesina
Family Talk:	Baby Dedication and Baptism	Chan Beng Seng
Greeter:	Rachel Wangari Jenet Onwufuju	Paul Wong Amber Tong
Offering Rota:	Kevin Ng Susan Babasa	Kulwinder Kaur Caden Lam
Counting Rota	Doris Lee Sunita Suna	Paul Wong Rey Asis
Sunday School	Jailyn Tomitis	Jailyn Tomitis
I.T. Team:	Lo Yuk Fai	Carl Cathedral and Venus Cheng
Freewill offering last week : HK\$7,800 Promissory offering last week: HK\$1,300-		