

Kowloon Union Church  
"Where all are one"  
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Secretary: Candy Lam  
Social Ministry Worker: Cecilia Yeung  
Minister: Maggie Mathieson  
Minister-in-charge: Phyllis Wong



**Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
**18 December 2022**  
**Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.**

(\* : Congregation stands)

### **APPROACH**

#### **ADVENT LITANY**

**PREPARATION SONG** "Light of Hope" – Music: T Chan; Lyrics: M Mathieson

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\* HYMN** "He Came Down" – Music: Trad folk; Lyrics: Trans. John L Bell

**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** "Here I Am to Worship" – Composer: Tim Hughes

**SCRIPTURE READING**

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

**A light to our path.**

Isaiah 7: 10 – 16 (O.T.)

Matthew 1: 18 - 25(N.T.)

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

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

**\* HYMN** "Star Child" – Music: Colin Gibson; Lyrics: Shirley E Murray

**FAMILY TALK**

**SERMON** "Love = Presence"

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

### **THE OFFERTORY**

**CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL RESPOND** "Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

– Composer: Bob McGee

**OFFERTORY**

**THE PEACE**

- \* **HYMN** "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" – Music: TR Matthews; Lyrics: E S Elliot
- \* **COMMISSION and BLESSING**

## CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

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

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

- After China relaxed most Covid - 19 policies, people have taken to stockpiling supplies they may need in a future lockdown. Shelves in supermarkets and pharmacies have been cleared of ibuprofen, cold medicines, RAT kits, canned goods and vitamin C products. Many people are hoarding these products in fear of other lockdowns. We pray that this panic will calm down among the people allowing supermarkets to restock and provide for all who need it.
- Nurses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are to go on strike from 08:00 on Thursday in the largest action of its kind in National Health Service history. Staff will continue to provide "life-preserving" and some urgent care, but routine surgery and other planned treatment is likely to be disrupted. The Royal College of Nursing said members had been given no choice after ministers refused to reopen pay talks. Let us hope that a solution can be found that will recognise the work of this group of people.
- A small dinghy carrying 35 migrants ran into difficulties as the boat crossed the English Channel. Although local fishermen could rescue 31 people from the sinking boat, four people did not make it and died in the crossing. As this group and many like them will continue to find a way to a better life, we pray for their safety and the provisions needed to make such difficult crossings.
- More than 120 people have been killed following the worst floods in years in the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kinshasa. Many have lost their lives in landslides after the deluge of water. Homes and livelihoods have been washed away. May the Lord comfort the families who have lost loved ones and give strength to those left behind as they seek to rebuild.
- Courts in Iran's capital have handed prison terms of up to 10 years to 400 people arrested at anti-government protests, a judiciary official says. Tehran's prosecutor-general said 160 "rioters" were sentenced to between five and ten years, 80 to between two and five years, and 160 to two years or less, the Mizan news agency reported. The safety of all arrested is a great area of concern. May God protect all who have been arrested.
- Iran has sentenced Olivier Vandecasteele, a Belgian Aid worker, to 28 years in prison. It is not known what the charges are against him. The news comes days after the Belgian constitutional court halted a controversial prisoner exchange treaty. Iran wants to swap the Belgian for the imprisoned Assadollah Assadi. We pray for the safety of Mr. Vandecasteele as he remains in prison with little to no rights in the Iranian system.
- Barrister Chow Hang-tung has successfully defended herself and won her appeal against a conviction and 15-month prison term over a banned June 4 vigil last year.

This case offers hope that the judiciary system holds to what we expect. May it continue to be so.

- Covid case numbers here in Hong Kong continue to rise daily, almost reaching the 15, 000 mark. As temperatures drop, we pray for the most vulnerable at this time of the year: the old, the young and those dealing with illness. May God strengthen and energise our frontline workers as they face the many challenges ahead.

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

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

We give **thanks** for:

- the long and complex history of China, with its many artefacts, cultures and traditions that have developed over millennia
- those who established missions and churches in the past, and the determination of Chinese Christians to contextualize the church here and now
- those who boldly live out their faith, challenging injustices even when they fear persecution
- the economic growth and development that have lifted many out of poverty
- the great religious tolerance exhibited by the Taiwanese and their pioneering of contextual theological education
- the steps China is taking to counter huge environmental challenges.

We **pray** for:

- those left behind and further marginalized by rising economic growth, especially women and peasants in rural areas
- the political and social tensions between the mainland of China and Hong Kong and the rest of the world
- a growth in prophetic witness of the Chinese church in society
- peaceful resolution of the many disputed claims to islands in the South China Sea by Taiwan and its neighbours and for greater understanding and cooperation between Taiwan and mainland China
- spiritual meaning and freedom from captivity to economic growth and consumerism.

### **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, Poulis Zaki, Saafa, Selvia and Stella Chan. We remember those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today**

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

**This Week's Programs in Church**

Tuesday - Peace Making Fellowship in Number 2 Jordan Road at 10:00 am

- Wednesday - No Choir
- Friday - Bible Study – online at 10:30 am  
No Junior Choir

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**21 December - Ordination Announcement**

We are happy to share the news with everyone that our former Social Ministry Worker, Timothy Chan, will be ordained as a minister on Wed, 21 December. Timothy has established a church named The Ecumenical Hub, and this community has called him to ordination. Click on the QR code for details.



**Christmas Eve in KUC**

Christmas Eve Worship will start at 7:30 pm on 24 Dec. After worship, we will have carolling on the steps, as is the KUC tradition. Please note that we will not share a meal after worship this year, so please eat before you come to church.



**Christmas Day**

Christmas Day worship will start at 11 am on Sunday. We will celebrate the Saviour’s birth with our friends from One Body in Christ and the United Church of Christ of the Philippines in Hong Kong.



**Monday 26 December - Meditative Retreat @ KUC**

A time to still our souls and let our hearts be at peace.  
 Date: 26 December 2022    Venue: Number 2 Jordan Road  
 Time: 10 am - 5 pm.        Registration: Click the QR code  
 Organised by the Christian Education Committee; facilitated by Mayson and Pastor Phyllis. Please contact them if you need more details.



	<b>TODAY 18 December</b>
Liturgist:	Maggie Mathieson
Preacher:	Aimé Girimana
Pianist:	Jessica Tso
Lector:	Emmanuel Adesina
Intercessory Prayers:	Judy Chan
Family Talk:	Tong Chong Sze
Greeter:	Kevin Ng
Offering Rota:	Rachel Wanguri Kulwinder Kaur
Counting Rota	Paul Wong Rey Asis
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis
I.T. Team:	Carl Catedral

Last Sunday’s offering: HK\$3,383-  
 Promissory offering last week: HK\$1,300-