

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



Christmas Eve Service
24 December 2023
7:30 p.m.

APPROACH

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN "He Came Down That We May Have Love"

OPENING PRAYER

LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15

CAROL 1 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

THE SECOND LESSON

THE LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

CAROL 2 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

THE THIRD LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9

CAROL 3 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

THE FOURTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35

CAROL 4 "Canticle of the Turning"

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7

CAROL 5 "Silent Night"

THE SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16

CAROL 6 "Angels We Have Heard On High"

RESPONDING IN LOVE

THE SEVENTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL 7 “In The Bleak Midwinter”

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE EIGHTH LESSON John 1:1-14

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CAROL 8 “Christ Be Our Light”

BLESSING

HYMN “Joy To The World”

CAROLING

1. Joy To The World

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing,

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Saviour reigns!

Let all their songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove;

The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,

And wonders, wonders, of His love.

2. Away In a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side, 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

3. Deck the Halls

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la la la la!
'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la la la la!
Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la la la la la la!
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, Fa la la la la la la la!

See the blazing yule before us, Fa la la la la la la la!
Strike the harp and join the chorus, Fa la la la la la la la!
Sing we joyous all together! Fa la la la la la la la!
Heedless of the wind and weather, Fa la la la la la la la!

4. Ding Dong Merrily On High

Ding dong merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!" by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

5. Feliz Navidad

Feliz navidad, Feliz Navidad, Feliz Navidad
Prospero Ano y Felicidad.

We wanna wish you a Merry Christmas
We wanna wish you a Merry Christmas
We wanna wish you a Merry Christmas
From the bottom of our hearts.

6. Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain, our Jesus Christ is born.*

When I was a seeker I sought both night and day,
I asked the Lord to help me, and he showed me the way.

He made me a watchman upon a city wall,
And if I am a Christian, I am the least of all.

7. Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"
Christ by highest heav'n adored Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

8. Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow in a one horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go laughing all the way
Bells on bob tails ring making spirits bright
What fun it is to laugh and sing a sleighing song tonight

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh
Jingle bells, jingle bells jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one horse open sleigh!

9. Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high.
Sweetly singing o'er the plains.
And the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see,
Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

10. Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

11. The Calypso Carol

See Him lying on a bed of straw
A draughty stable with an open door
Mary cradling the babe she bore
The Prince of glory is His name

**O now carry me to Bethlehem
To see the Lord appear to men
Just as poor as was the stable then
The Prince of glory when He came**

Star of silver, sweep across the skies
Show where Jesus in the manger lies
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
To see the Saviour of the world

12. The First Noel

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel

Born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought.

13. We Wish You a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome!

Welcome to our Service this evening. After the Service, we will move to the steps outside the church for carols singing. You are most welcome to join us in this time of joy.

Christmas Day Worship tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.

Followed by a Pot-luck meal

You are welcome to join us!

TONIGHT...

Liturgist: Phyllis Wong

Pianist: Jessica Tso

Musician: Caden Lam

Lectors: Amber Tong, Carol Yuen, Chris Law, Joy Prim,
Ramon Bultron, Rey Asis, Ronald Chui, Venus Cheng

KUC'S CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITIONS

Traditions are made through experience, through events so meaningful that people repeat them in rituals, in words, and in music – so that every generation can remember and re-experience them.

The lighting of the Christ candle is a tradition of many churches. Light is a symbol of Christ's love and grace. It is also a symbol of our own personal commitment. It is a commitment that we bear, *I* bear, in being a faithful witness to Christ in daily living, even to the ends of the earth.

Kowloon Union Church has further developed this tradition, adding a practice of our own – the Singing on the Steps. After the Christmas Eve Service, we gather on the outer steps to sing Christmas carols.

The background. Until the late 1960s, the congregation used to go from the Christmas Eve Service to Queen Elizabeth Hospital to sing carols there. In 1968, however, Hong Kong was in a state of uproar and confusion. There was rioting in the streets. Bombs were set off. Electricity was often cut. A curfew was declared, and it was not possible for carolers to go to the hospital. So some young church members decided instead to remain on the steps and sing carols by candlelight. They wanted to show that, transcending the human chaos, there was God's peace; above people's hatred, there was God's love.

KUC is an international Ecumenical Church that embraces diversity and receives all people regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientations, gender identities, socio-economic status and different level of capacities. This is our witness to the good news of inclusivity, unity and oneness in Jesus Christ, who was born to embrace everyone and share love to all.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!