

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

15 October 2023

Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

(*: Congregation Stands)



APPROACH

PREPARATION SONG “Bless The Lord” – Taize

Bless the Lord, my soul

And bless God's holy name

Bless the Lord, my soul

Who leads me into life

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*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for home;

All: God calls when we wander from the path chosen for us.

L: God calls and invites us to the banquet in heaven;

All: let us receive it with a grateful heart.

L: God calls and welcomes us to worship this day;

All: let us celebrate and rejoice in God's presence now and forever;

* **HYMN** “Be Still for the Presence of the Lord”

– Composer: David Evans

Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy one is here
Come bow before him now
In reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on Holy ground
Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy one is here.

Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with Holy fire
With splendor He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

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CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving and Living God,

We recognize how much we need you for life itself.

But how often have we behaved as if we did not know you?

How often have we ignored your voice to call us home?

How often have we tried to dominate others even as you stand with them?

How often have we become the ones who are greedy and show no love to our neighbours who are in need?

How often have we destroyed your creation for our selfish desires?

Forgive us for these times when we have lost our way. Help us to see you and return to your path of righteousness. Shower your mercy upon us. Find us and lead us to your heavenly home of everlasting love and peace. Amen!

ALL RESPOND “Kyrie Eleison” (Lord, have mercy)

– Trad. Orthodox

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison

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ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Dear sisters and brothers,
When we are lost, all is not lost.
God is seeking us, ready to turn our lives around,
gathering us into God's Kingdom of Heaven.
Let us rejoice in God's mercy and love!
All: Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.

* **HYMN** "The Steadfast Love of the Lord"

– Composer: Edith McNeill

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases
God's mercies never come to an end
They are new every morning
New every morning
Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord
Great is Thy faithfulness
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SCRIPTURE READING

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

Psalm 23 (O.T.)

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

3 he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

**4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my
whole life long.**

Matthew 22:1-14 (N.T.)

22 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables,
saying: 2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared
to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3
He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited
to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4
Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who

have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ 10 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, 12 and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Lord, may Your Word live in us.

And bear much fruit for Your glory.

HYMN “Seek Ye First”

– by David Huff & Karen Lafferty

Seek ye first the kin-dom of God
And Gods righteousness
And all these things
Shall be added unto you
Allelu alleluia

We shall not live by bread alone
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door
Shall be opened unto you
Allelu alleluia
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FAMILY TALK

SERMON “Worthiness of the Kingdom of Heaven”

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH- THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he
will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE OFFERTORY

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your 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.**

ALL RESPOND “Ubi Caritas”

(Where there is charity, there is love)

– Taizé

Ubi caritas et amor,

ubi caritas, Deus Ibi Est. --||--

OFFERTORY

THE PEACE

* **HYMN “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”**

– Composer: Daniel Schutte

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.
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* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Concerns of the Church

God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.

– John Wesley

- The situation is very tense in the Middle East after the surprise Hamas attack across the Gaza border on 7 Oct during a major Jewish holiday Saturday. The attack was coordinated across multiple locations backed by thousands of rounds of rocket fire and killed 1200 people in mass shootings in Israel including civilians in a music/dance festival. Many women, elderly and children had also allegedly been kidnapped and being held hostage within Gaza. This attack had triggered retaliation from Israel and already over 1000 people in Gaza had been killed in bombing raids which also affected hospitals and schools. Moreover, Israel had called up an unprecedented 300,000 reserves and had orchestrated a total blockade against Gaza, cutting off its water and electricity supply which would surely lead to a growing humanitarian crisis for the Palestinians caught between this Hamas-Israel war. Meanwhile, Hamas is calling for armed resistance from other groups making the situation even more volatile. In times like this when we feel so helpless and that it seems

there is nothing we can do, we turn to God for hope and comfort, and pray for His mercy and guidance to turn hearts away from violence and mutual hate, that somewhere somehow, through this crisis, seeds would be sown for future reconciliation for lasting peace in the Middle East.

- Prisoners at Tacumbú jail, Paraguay's largest prison, started a riot on Tuesday afternoon on the 10 Oct and at least 10 guards are being held hostage. The prison director says members of a prison gang called Rotela Clan are behind the unrest, and one of their strange demands is a promise that the overcrowded Tacumbú to be reopened for new inmates even though the jail is already holding thousands more inmates than it was designed for. Local media have reported that this demand is an attempt by the Rotela Clan to further strengthen its influence in Tacumbú by having even more of its members sent to it. Paraguay and other countries in the region had been struggling to regain control of jails which for years have been run by inmates. We pray for governments in the region to tackle the root cause for crimes that fed recruits to gangs and clans in the first place.
- Another earthquake has hit western Afghanistan just days after two large quakes in the same region killed more than 1,000 people. The new 6.3 magnitude quake struck at around 05:10 local time on Wednesday, 28km north of the city of Herat. More than 100 were injured and sent to hospital, health officials said. Many people have lost their homes and have to run barefoot to the outskirts of the city, where many have been sleeping in tents since the first quake. Aid agencies have said there is also a shortage of blankets, food and other supplies. We pray for swift and

efficient humanitarian support to these people traumatised by yet another natural disaster.

- We are thankful for a 17-year old student with F.6 DSE stress who had been missing for eight days was found alive and safe. He was airlifted to hospital and seemed to be well despite being out in the woods for over a week without food and had to endure the typhoon over the weekend. This case reminds us to remember and pray for the young people in Hong Kong, for the stress that they are under these days: the uncertainty of the future of Hong Kong is adding even more burden to their already bursting exam pressure.

For the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

We lift up in prayer the churches and people of all faiths in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

We are **thankful** for:

- the cultures and foods distinctive here, yet enjoyed around the world
- indigenous and other groups who have resisted injustice and human rights violations
- church leaders who have spoken out and acted on behalf of the poor and marginalized
- developments that improve life for all, while also caring for the environment.

We **pray** for:

- stable, democratically elected governments committed to the peace and wellbeing of all
- comfort and healing for the families and loved ones of those who have been killed or disappeared, and for those responsible to be brought to justice

- stopping corruption, drug traffic, and violence, and those who profit from such activities
- improved economic life and trade policies so that people will not be exploited and can pursue livelihoods in these countries rather than migrating elsewhere for work.

For the Congregation

- Pray for the renovation of the church and safety of the workers.
- Pray for Pastor's Maggie treatment and God's healing grace dwell upon her fully.
- Pray for Revd Kwok Nai Wang (KUC's former Senior Minister), the mothers of Alex Melwani and Sunita Suna and the father-in-law of Ms. Candy. For Mrs Samuel, Holly Chui, Revd Bud Carroll, Hend, Jeanette Lee, Kevin Ng, Ng Kam Lee, Raymond Lau, Chui, Ana and Ramon Bultron, Lucy Lim, Mercy, Poulis Zaki and Joy Babasa. We remember those caring for loved ones at home and in care facilities.

Announcements

Today - A warm welcome to all who join our worship this morning. Thank you, Aimé Girimana, for sharing the Word of God with us.

This Week's Programs in Church

Tuesday – Peacemaking Fellowship at 10am in KUCspace

Wednesday – Harambe – 6:00 pm, KUC Upper Fellowship Hall

Dates for your Diary

KUC Congregational Retreat 2023

The Christian Education Committee is organizing a retreat based on our Centenary theme – “Grounded in God, Growing in Faith, Giving in Community”. You are welcome to join us as we seek a time to communicate with God, nourish our faith and find ways to grow and serve.

Date of Retreat: 23 October (Mon) Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Meeting Time: 9:30 am, Exit A University Station,
Chinese University

Venue: Theology Building, Chinese University

Cost: \$50/person (including lunch)

To register for the retreat, please click on the QR code



Hiking to the Peak

The Care and Fellowship Committee will organize a hike on 29th October (Sunday). Gathering at 1 pm in church and finished by 5pm. To register for the hike, please click on the QR code.



Extra-ordinary General Meeting - EGM

The EGM will be held on 5 Nov at 1:30pm, for the approval of budget 2024.

	TODAY 15 October	NEXT WEEK 22 October
Liturgist:	Phyllis Wong	Rey Asis
Preacher:	Aimé Girimana	Phyllis Wong
Pianist:	Joshua Pang	Eva Kwan
Lector:	Caden Lam	Anjette Bolanos
Intercessory Prayers:	Judy Chan	Robert Lam
Family Talk:	Mayson Fung	Chan Beng Seng
Greeter:	Susan Babasa Journaliz Badon	Lucy Lim
Offering Rota:	Anjette Bolanos Jacob	Daddy Journaliz Badon
Counting Rota	Ramon Bultron Paul Wong	Ramon Bultron Jennifer Chan
Sunday School Leaders:	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina	Jailyn Tomitis Mary Adesina
I.T. Team:	Jennifer Pang Bervinder Kaur	Jennifer Pang Bervinder Kaur
Freewill offering last week: HK\$1,755.90- Promissory offering last week: HK\$800-		